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More Millennium madness  
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**TOMORROW**  
The husband hunting Natashas



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## Lawrence case informants named in inquiry blunder

By STEWART TENDLER and STEPHEN FARRELL

SCOTLAND YARD was offering secret informants in the Stephen Lawrence investigation police protection last night after their identities were published in the Macpherson report and circulated to the men who were accused of the killing.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, who chaired the inquiry into the case, issued a public apology for the blunder as police began visiting 20 people who spoke up after the murder six years ago to see if they were scared.

The alarm was raised yesterday morning when Yard officers found that a second volume on key documents included a calendar of information drawn up by Kent police as they examined the London investigation after a complaint by the Lawrence family.

The calendar was intended to show how much information the murder team received over a 17-day period. It included the address from which the Yard kept surveillance on some of the suspects, the names of people who gave information about the five men eventually arrested, and the addresses of other informants.



One woman described the publication of her personal details as disgusting, and the relative of another informant said: "Of course we are concerned; we have the police here with us now."

CID and author of the calendar, said: "I am horrified. It was never meant for publication." Jack Straw was alerted to the breach and the second part of the report and its relevant appendix was withdrawn. But 1,500 copies had already been distributed, including five sets destined for the men accused of the killing, and it had been on the Internet since Wednesday.

It is thought that at least some of the five suspects had already received the appendices. But Michael Holmes, the solicitor for Gary Dobson, said that his client had not seen the calendar and had no wish to do so because he might be

blamed if anything happened to any of the informants.

As Conservatives accused the Home Office of incompetence, Mr Straw shrugged off any suggestion that he or his officials were responsible for the blunder and wrote saying as much to the Speaker. He said that it would have been wrong for him to have checked the contents of an independent inquiry report.

A spokesman for Sir William's team said: "It's a mistake, it's our responsibility and we very much regret what has happened. Basically it was just an error."

Last night Mr Straw joined Do-

reen and Neville Lawrence in laying flowers beside the memorial plaque in Eltham, South London, where their son died. The plaque had been desecrated with white paint overnight and police admitted yesterday that the video surveillance camera trained on the spot was a "dummy" with no film in it.

The plaque has been attacked twice before and the bus-stop where Stephen was attacked was also daubed with paint yesterday.

Help for suspects, page 6  
Leading article and Letters, page 27  
Media, pages 46, 47

## Boy, 4, in snow tomb rescue

FROM ROGER BOYES IN LANDECK, AUSTRIA

THE rescue of a four-year-old boy, trapped under snow for almost two hours, yesterday, a courageous first aid workers and Austrian soldiers to continue their increasingly desperate search for survivors of one of the most deadly avalanches experienced in the Tyrolean Alps.

The boy, still in intensive care but said to be smiling, was found clinically dead after 100 minutes under the deep layer of snow which swept into the small village of Valzur.

Doctors managed to reanimate him and ease his hypothermia. With the help of a helicopter pilot willing to brave a snowstorm he was flown to safety.

Dr Alois Schranz, chief surgeon at Zams Hospital who worked round the clock to bring the boy back to life, said he could be seen as the "miracle of Valzur".

Doctors calculate that few people can survive much more than 15 minutes beneath the snow; the strong likelihood is that they will suffocate.

The boy — his name has not been released — was hit by the torrent of snow in the second avalanche in 24 hours in the disaster area. Valzur is on the outskirts of Galtür which was devastated by an avalanche on

Tuesday. As the Austrian authorities struggled to evacuate Galtür on Wednesday, the Valzur avalanche struck.

Five people are still lost in the Valzur drift, six in Galtür. In the two resorts, a total of 32 bodies have been found, 27 of them in Galtür.

It was a sniffer dog that discovered the boy. The dogs are proving invaluable as time runs out but they can also raise false hopes, smelling an item of clothing rather than a trapped human. As the rescue team started to dig, however, it became clear that there was indeed a buried child.

The first assumption was that the child was dead. He seemed to be not breathing and the rescue workers were unable to find a pulse. But after strenuous resuscitation, the apparently lifeless child started to react.

Wrapped in thermal blankets, he was taken by helicopter yesterday from the valley — through the darkness and the heavy snowstorm — to Galtür and was later transferred to the hospital at Zams.

The rescue team — more than 300 strong — needed this kind of spur. They are beginning to crumple with fatigue and the emotional strain of unearthing body after body. Psychiatrists are dividing their time between mourning parents, disoriented children and the rescue workers themselves.

Rescue organisers said yesterday that 21 bodies had been identified: nine were Germans, five Dutch, five Austrians and two Danes. No British holidaymakers have been killed and none are reported missing.

The evacuation of Galtür was almost complete last night. Most of those now staying on have chosen to do so.



Tourists arriving at Pontlatz barracks in Landeck after being airlifted from the avalanche-stricken resort of Galtür

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Rescuers searching in the village were stunned yesterday to find a dog which had apparently survived for two days under the snow, an official said. The black mongrel was found in the wreckage of a house.

Army rescue officials have called the animal, whose owners were among those who died in the resort village, Flocki. Colonel Raimund Lammer, a rescue official, said another officer who already has a dog had agreed to adopt it.

Today, if the weather holds, the focus will shift to evacuat-

ing Ischgl, parts of which may be under threat from new avalanches. But the searchers will continue to probe the snowdrifts of Galtür and Valzur — using long sticks, dogs and special sensors — in case they stumble on another miracle.

Hopes for finding survivors have centred on air holes under the wreckage of destroyed buildings.

Departing tourists described days of terror following the Galtür avalanche as they waited for the airlift.

"It was terrible, especially

the nights," said Birgit Pick, a German holidaymaker. "We didn't know if there would be another avalanche. We hardly slept for two nights."

The organisation was a bit chaotic. Yesterday we stood for five hours in the snow with our children, waiting for a flight out, and then we were told we couldn't go. We went back to our hotel and were very frightened all night long. But this morning we got the first flight out, thank God."

White Death, pages 4 & 5

## 'Junket Jack' owns up to his freebies

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JACK CUNNINGHAM, the Cabinet Office minister known at Westminster as "Junket Jack", had his reputation for high living confirmed yesterday when he declared a lengthy list of free hospitality in the past 12 months.

The latest Register of Members' Interests shows that Dr Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister, accepted a series of tickets for himself and his wife, Mrs Cunningham, for the opera, Wimbledon and Newcastle United football matches.

Dr Cunningham, who originally earned his epithet for costly ministerial trips overseas, including a flight on Concorde, admits to tickets and hospitality at the Royal Albert Hall, courtesy of the English National Ballet last June 18.

A week later he went to Glyndebourne, courtesy British Nuclear Fuels, before attending the men's finals at Wimbledon on July 5, courtesy Coca-Cola. In September he

was given two days free fishing by Scottish Coal and throughout the year he has enjoyed days of hospitality at St James' Park, home ground to Newcastle United at the expense of the football club.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also appears susceptible to the odd freebie. Last month he decided to register that he had received two tickets to Wimbledon for July 3, from the England Lawn Tennis Club, and two tickets for the England v Moldova match at Wembley, courtesy the Football Association.

He declared a visit to Glyndebourne, paid for by Marks & Spencers. His latest entry, on January 22, discloses that he and his family obtained a "space available" upgrade to club class for their outward and return trips to Delhi over Christmas, courtesy British Airways. He saved £8,230.

MPs' profit, page 13

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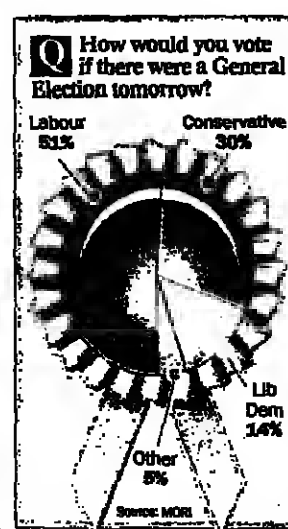
## Tories gain ground, but Hague struggles

By PETER RIDDELL

SUPPORT for the Conservative Party has risen to 30 per cent for the first time since the 1997 election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, is mixed news for the Tories. The party's rating jumped six points from the very low level of late January after the row over genetically modified foods. But William Hague's personal rating continued to decline — to a record low among Tory supporters. By a two to one margin, Tories are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with his performance.

Support for Labour has fallen by five points to 51 per cent, the lowest since the election, with the Liberal Democrats unchanged on 14 per cent. It is, however, premature to talk about mid-term blues since support for Labour is higher, and for the Tories lower, than at the election.



The poll also shows that there is still to play for over the euro, with half of the public saying they could be swayed either way, depending on what they think will be best for the British economy. At the moment, support for the currency

is evenly split with 46 per cent supporting British participation and 45 per cent against. This represents a marked shift since the 54 to 37 per cent balance against in August 1996.

The total includes 17 per cent strong supporters and 24 per cent strong opponents. Twenty-nine per cent of those questioned were generally in favour but could be persuaded against, while 21 per cent generally opposed could be persuaded in favour.

Two-thirds think it likely that they will regularly use the euro by 2010.

MORI interviewed 1,769 adults at 155 sampling points between February 19 and 22. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (1 per cent).

## Cook names MI6 chief as new 'C'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE present director of operations at MI6 is to be the new "C", the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday.

Richard Dearlove, 54, who is also Assistant Chief of SIS, the second most senior post at MI6, will succeed Sir David Spedding who is retiring in September. He will serve as "C" initially for three years but is likely to stay on for five.

The naming of the new "C" follows a tradition begun by the last Conservative Government under which the heads

of the three security and intelligence services, MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the secret communications centre at Cheltenham, are identified. Other senior members are supposed to remain anonymous.

Richard Billing Dearlove, who joined MI6 in 1966, served as an undercover intelligence officer in Nairobi, Prague and Paris. After a period in London he was posted to Geneva and then Washington, before returning to London in 1993 as one of MI6's directors.

Like other intelligence officers, he never attained a senior official diplomatic rank, spending much of his career as a First Secretary, a normal "cover" ranking given to MI6 officers in British Embassies.

Mr Dearlove, who obtained a history honours degree from Queen's College, Cambridge, is married with two sons and a daughter, all in their 20s.

Sir David never made a public appearance and his picture has never been published.



Labour slides, page 12  
Mary-Ann Sieghart, page 26  
Letters, page 27

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## Bores will be bores as grey men strive for tedium

Three men awoke early. For each, yesterday was a big day. Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, knew he must perform at Queens.

Alun Michael knew that opening the Debate on Wales, later, the speech would strike the keynote for his newly confirmed leadership of the Welsh Labour Party.

And for Richard Livsey, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Wales, his own speech mattered hugely. This was the last St David's Day debate before the Welsh Assembly elections. His party have high hopes. Three men with different

purposes. But one goal they shared. To win the title Most Boring MP in Britain. Each was in hot contention: they are this sketch's finalists. Thursday offered each a chance to shine — at being outstandingly dull.

"Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the dullest of us all?" muttered Mr Byers as he shaved, taking care not to cut himself lest colour pierce the grey. He slicked his hair into shape, not a grey strand out of place.

Shirt? Plain white. Mr Byers surveyed a range of two-piece suits, well cut but not ostentatiously so. Briefly he con-



sidered a charcoal flannel. No, too dark a grey. A dove-grey pinstripe? Too light a grey. He chose a mid-grey suit. Third Way grey.

Tie? Grey of course, but silk or wool? He chose grey silk, setting off suit, hair and disposition beautifully. A grey Government lino had arrived with his red (light) box. He set out for Westminster.

Alun Michael was there already. Forced, against every

instinct, to wear a daffodil (in order not to stand out) he had chosen grey suit, mid-blue tie. Richard Livsey paced his office floor rehearsing his speech. He must iron out any wrinkle of interest — adopt a monotone unrelieved by the least vocal modulation. It was going well. Four pigeons were comatose on the windowsill.

First over the wire was Stephen Byers. Magnificent! He said absolutely nothing,

speaking often. But the judges must mark Byers down: he was almost crisp. Vacuity should be limp. "No comment" raises a page of pap lowers eyelids — surely the aim.

After noon came Alun Michael. Splendid. He spoke without meaning for nearly an hour, ostensibly on Wales. In the Strangers' Gallery they were keeling over.

Michael was helped by an almost empty Chamber (a couple of Tories, eight on his own side, and one Liberal Democrat) but I was ready to cast my vote for him when the Liberal Democrat rose. Richard

Livsey gave us a tour de force: this man was not just boringly boring; he was spectacularly boring.

People turned to each other in wonder that anyone could be so boring. "St David's day-is-as-we-know-a-special-day-in-the-calendar," he droned, never, in all that dreadful dirge, raising eyes from text, or voice by so much as a semitone. "We need vision and leadership and we need it desperately," Livsey perorated, a living demonstration of his own contention.

Judges were poised between Michael and Livsey. Then Michael clinched it —

for Livsey. For Rhodri Morgan spoke, the man Mr Michael has just beaten in an unfair contest for the leadership in Wales.

Alun Michael didn't even listen. He chatted to a pal, then walked out — while Morgan was speaking. That isn't boring; it's stunning. Convicted of astonishingly discourtesy, Michael loses to Livsey who is a gent, and a nice one.

One anxiety troubles the judges. This sort of behaviour is becoming the norm among new Labour. Courtesy will soon be considered an attention-grabbing eccentricity. Bores will be boring.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prescription charges to rise by 10p

Prescription charges are to rise by 10p to £5.90 from April 1. The increase is meant to help raise £377 million for the NHS in the next financial year — enough money to run the service for two days. Announcing the increase yesterday, John Denham, the Health Minister, promised that for the next three years prescription charges would rise by no more than the rate of inflation. Yesterday's rise was the lowest for 20 years, he said, and was below the inflation rate for January.

A free Prescriptions Advice Line is being set up so that patients can find out if they are eligible for a prescription without payment. The Government has also agreed that from April everyone over 60 will be eligible for free eye tests.

### Swiss chocs win

Cadbury lost the battle of the chocolate bars in the Court of Appeal when it was banned from selling its Swiss Choc chocolate, and landed with a £1 million-plus legal bill. Suchard and Lindt protested that the confectionery was wrongly being passed off as real Swiss chocolate.

### Art tax stalled

Lobbying by the Government and auction houses delayed an EU move to impose a royalty levy on modern art sales every time a work is sold for up to 70 years after an artist's death. The German presidency of the EU agreed to postpone an attempt to force through the levy on a majority vote.

### Leah charge

A woman was charged by police yesterday following the death of a 13-year-old girl from a suspected drug overdose. Leah Lawson was discovered by her mother on the sofa of their home in Grimsby on Saturday. A 24-year-old woman has been charged with supplying drugs.

### Chef cleared

A caterer was cleared of blame for an outbreak of salmonella poisoning that afflicted 100 people who had eaten his chocolate mousse. Salford Magistrates' Court ruled that Marc Cooper, of Whitefield, Manchester, had taken every play care in preparing the dessert with a raw egg.

### Daughter free

Benita Pearce, 33, who vacillated around her mother as she lay dying on the floor, was given 12 months in jail, suspended for two years, after Truro Crown Court was told she was mentally ill. She admitted manslaughter.

### Launderer jailed

A London businessman who became a multimillionaire by laundering criminal cash through his Bureau de Change was jailed for 14 years and fined £1 million. Usama El-Kurd is believed to have laundered £70 million.

## Law lords' log-jam delays key rulings

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL PINOCHET will not hear his fate for at least another three weeks because the highest court in the land is facing an overload of work which is causing delays in cases right down through the courts.

The law lords are struggling to complete their draft opinions on whether the former dictator is immune from prosecution because two of them are also chairing public inquiries: Lord Saville is chairing the Bloody Sunday Inquiry and Lord Phillips is chairing the BSE inquiry.

In the wake of the fiasco which prompted a second Pinochet hearing in January, they are also determined to ensure their opinions are legally watertight and there are "no loose ends" as one put it, even though they are likely to be divided.

The backlog has been made worse first by the emergency Pinochet hearing before Christmas and then the rehearsing as a result of Lord Hoffmann's failure to disclose links with Amnesty International.

The situation has been made more difficult because the law lords are not up to their full strength of 12. Lord Nicholls is in Hong Kong, sitting there on the final court of appeal. Retired law lords such as Lord MacKay of Clashfern, Lord Mustill and Lord Jauncey of Tullchettle have been brought in to sit on cases.

The shortage is holding up several cases in the Court of Appeal and litigants are becoming angry about the delays.

In one important case, affecting the right of people to sue over child abuse, judgment has still not been delivered some six months after the hearing ended.

At least a dozen other actions are awaiting the outcome of this judgment, involving the London Borough of Enfield,

which will determine whether local authorities can be sued over the abuse of children in their care.

One litigant has leave to go to the Court of Appeal over the sexual abuse and rape of his niece when in care, but his case is held up pending the outcome of the child abuse ruling.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said yesterday: "This ruling is far more important than this Pinochet case. But we are just kept being told that they don't know when our ruling will be. It's disgusting."

"We have been waiting months. We have been up through every court in the land. I mean, if one of these law lords drops dead in the meantime, then the whole case will have to be heard all over again."

The man, who comes from East London, became a guardian, looking after his niece. Now in her twenties, she was raped in 1979. It took several years for complaints about the rapist to be taken seriously but finally in 1994 he was charged and convicted of rape and jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey.

Now he wants to sue the local authority for damages and after a couple of setbacks in the lower courts, his case has reached the Court of Appeal.

James Vallance-White, principal clerk in the House of Lords Judicial Office, agreed that they were under-staffed at present. "We are one down each day, with only nine law lords available, which means we do not have enough to staff both the Privy Council and the appeal committee for current cases."

He said there were some ten cases outstanding waiting judgment apart from cases currently being heard. "They are very aware of the problem and doing their



The futuristic design for the mayoral palace in London will be a vote of confidence in London as an international city, the Government believes

## Glass dish reflects choice for London

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TEN-storey glass dish designed by Sir Norman Foster will be chosen today as the home for the new Mayor of London.

Nick Raynsford, the minister for London, will tell MPs that the futuristic structure on the South Bank of the Thames has beaten its neo-classical rival in Bloomsbury.

In deciding to go for a brand new building to house the new office rather than supporting a facelift for an old one, ministers believe they are giving a vote of confidence not only to the status of the mayor, but also to London as an international city. "It will symbolise renewal and mod-

ernisation for our great capital as we approach the millennium," said a Whitehall source.

However, the choice has its opponents within government. Tony Blair himself is said to have reservations about the potential dangers of creating an alternative power base across the water from Westminster and the echoes it will carry of the Greater London Council. Senior Labour figures fear that giving the mayor a seat across the Thames will inevitably see the new post challenge the supremacy of Parliament when it comes to London affairs.

Labour opponents of Ken Livingstone's bid to become the party's candidate for the job served notice last night that they will use the symbolism of the

new building to fuel their case. Sir Norman's building, though, will be out of sight of Westminster, two miles downstream overlooking Tower Bridge.

Described variously as a glass egg, a soapdish or a fencing mask, the building will occupy 13 acres. It will be hung from two masts and will be clad in glass, with the proposed assembly chamber for the Greater London Authority. Also on the site will be a huge complex of offices, shops and a 180-bedroom hotel.

The alternative would have been Victoria House, an office block near the British Museum, remodelled by Will Alsop so that the space was raised, and three floors were made over to accommodate the chamber.



Foster designed winning building

## Surgery cut to relieve strain on tired staff

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE teaching hospitals are cutting the time spent on operations by a fifth because the effort to reduce waiting lists has left staff too exhausted to maintain their current workload.

The Royal Hospitals Trust, which runs St Bartholomew's Hospital, the Royal London and London Chest Hospital, has agreed to cancel 16 of its 96 theatre sessions a week because staff said they could no longer safely keep up the required pace.

The trust has a 40 per cent

shortage of theatre nurses and auxiliaries. Theatre staff have been putting in many hours of overtime to try to meet government targets. Despite the staff shortages the trust was only 2.7 per cent below its target figure for operations at the end of last month.

Helen Davis, theatre manager, said: "Staff have been working under great pressure to try to cover for the shortages and we feel it isn't fair on them or the patients they care for to try to maintain the current level of services given the circumstances. The staff feel they need a chance to regroup and take some time to work out longer-

term solutions to shortages." A hospital spokeswoman added: "We had to give the staff a break."

"If they went on at that rate quality would go down, patients would suffer. They have done their best, but recruitment is almost impossible."

Government figures released yesterday showed that the "waiting list" for the waiting list is growing rapidly. The number waiting more than three months to see a specialist has grown 40 per cent in the nine months since the Government launched its £330 million initiative to cut the length of waiting lists.

## Montgomery's Drumcree bid

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID MONTGOMERY, who resigned as the Mirror Group's chief executive in January, is stepping in to try to resolve the seven-month deadlock over the Orange Order's banned Drumcree parade.

Mr Montgomery met Brendan McKenna, leader of the nationalist residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road, last Friday. He has also had informal discussions with Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, who has chaired two rounds of fruitless "proximity"

talks between the Orangemen and the residents.

Mr Montgomery, who was born in Northern Ireland, is a close friend of David Trimble, the Province's First Minister and Portadown's MP. It was unclear last night whether he was intervening at Mr Trimble's behest. The First Minister's spokesman had no comment and Mr Montgomery was unavailable. Downing Street said Mr Montgomery would have no formal role but may be able to help.

There is growing concern in the Province that a new marching season is approaching with no resolution in sight.

## Channel 4 fined for fake show

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE Independent Television Commission will announce today that it has fined Channel 4 for the first time. The penalty has been imposed because it broadcast a documentary about rent boys in which key scenes were faked.

The £150,000 fine is only a fraction of the £2 million fine imposed by the ITC on Carlton Communications over *The Connection*, a documentary about the Colombian drugs cartel that contained faked scenes. Granada was fined £500,000 for product placements on *This Morning*, the show presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan.

Channel 4 has already ad-

mitted that a "deliberate and organised deception" took place over *Chickens*, a documentary that purported to show rent boys plying their trade in Glasgow. The interviews with rent boys were genuine but three short scenes apparently of rent boys setting up meetings with clients were played by staff of the programme maker, Basement Productions.

Channel 4 did not know that the scenes were not real and would have been happy to label them as "reconstructions". Although the fine is smaller than expected, Channel 4 is annoyed to be fined at all because it believes it had



Biggam warning

no way of knowing that the scenes had been faked. The ITC decision comes amid growing concern over the truth of what is shown on

television. The BBC Governors yesterday issued a statement expressing serious concern about standards after complaints that fake guests were interviewed on *The Vanessa Show*.

A preliminary investigation found that four guests had been booked through agents, and two were fakes. But no evidence was found to support claims that staff had knowingly booked fake guests.

The governors said: "The board will not tolerate fakes masquerading as facts." Today Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the ITC, is expected to issue a warning of severe punishment for broadcasters if there are further breaches of trust with the viewer.

## Blair warns failing train firms

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT, AND FRASER NELSON

MINISTERS yesterday set out new tests to judge train companies' performance as fresh evidence emerged that punctuality is worsening. Tougher time targets and passenger opinion will be used to bring standards closer to travellers' expectations.

The move to tighten regulations set up at the time of privatisation came as Tony Blair condemned train companies for failing passengers and said that the worst performers had no future in the industry. The Prime Minister told the 25 train companies that rule changes would be introduced for companies that wanted to extend their franchises or hoped to take over other firms.

Several of the biggest rail companies are pressing for extensions to their contracts, most of which are due to end in 2003. The large rail companies are also in

discussion with some of smallest operators who face financial difficulty as subsidies are reduced over the next four years.

Mr Blair told the first national rail summit, attended by senior figures from the industry: "I want to make it perfectly clear to you that you are on trial. You are failing your customers and those who continue to fail them have no place in the rail industry of the future."

"Don't think either that the length of the franchises held by train operating companies means that everything between us is set in stone. Don't think that because the franchises are contractually in place there is nothing we can do to drive forward improvements — that we will have to wait until the franchises come to an end."

Internal industry punctuality figures, seen by *The Times*, show that most networks had a growing number of late

trains in the past two months. Island Line, the only network to have earned an "A" rating, has now been demoted to a "B", leaving no "A" grade operators in the entire network.

ScotRail, the most punctual network in the country, has slipped from its high standards in five of its seven routes. Cardiff Railways and Connex South Central have continued to run more late trains.

The sharpest deterioration has come from Virgin Cross Country, where the annual level of late trains has increased from 17.7 to 19.5 per cent since December. Some franchises have improved: Connex South Eastern and Midland Main Line have increased punctuality. The latest government figures, released two weeks ago date to December 12, 1998. The new figures gathered by *The Times* deal with the 12 months to February 6.

Lecture



House Party is over for Edmonds as viewers quit

House Party is over for Edmonds as viewers quit



Pair's fire-raiser

Pair's fire-raiser

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# 'Lecturer' in £200,000 masquerade



Yusek cover was blown by new colleagues

A SCHIZOPHRENIC woman who earned almost £200,000 after fooling a university into giving her a senior post was yesterday sent to a secure psychiatric unit after two years on the run.

Soraya Yusek was convicted in 1996 of deceiving Reading University and false accounting but absconded before being sentenced. She was re-arrested at Warwick University, where she had just been appointed a part-time teacher under the name Angela Cooper.

Yesterday she was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act by a judge at Reading Crown Court. The universities said that

Schizophrenic went on run after banking wages from fictitious staff, reports Adam Sherwin

Yusek, who has a long history of mental illness, was a good teacher. Reading said after the case that it had tightened up its recruitment procedures.

The court was told that Yusek, 50, employed two fictitious lecturers — one her daughter and the other a former colleague who worked abroad — and banked their earnings.

She had become a part-time languages teacher at Reading University in 1989 after producing photocopied documents to support her claim that she had Arabic and Islamic history

degrees from Edinburgh University. Barnaby Evans, for the prosecution, said that her story was embellished by a glowing reference, apparently supplied by a colleague from Ankara University, but in reality written by herself.

She was given a full-time position as language access development officer in 1993. To obtain the post, she claimed to have a PhD from Durham University and presented more fake documents. "She said that in future she should be known by the title of doctor," Mr Evans said. He

told the court that Yusek, from Birmingham, had defrauded the university of £191,593 before an anonymous tip-off led to her arrest in 1996.

David Frampton, Registrar at Reading University, said: "We took her qualifications at face value on the basis of what we believed were proper letters of confirmation. They turned out to be forged. We have strengthened our arrangements for checking credentials."

Mr Frampton said there was no indication that Yusek was mentally ill. "Within the university her behav-

iour was perfectly normal. I still have no reason to question her performance as a teacher," he said.

Yusek was re-arrested at Warwick University two years later after she had been appointed a part-time teacher of English under the name of Angela Cooper. Her new colleagues recognised her face in a "wanted for questioning" advertisement in a teaching journal.

To obtain the Warwick post she cited a Masters in English Teaching from Aston University. The university confirmed that an Angela Cooper

was awarded an MA in 1993. A spokesman for Warwick University said: "She was a good teacher. When the police arrested her, she insisted on picking up some coursework."

Alex Lewis, representing Yusek, told Judge Josh Lait: "She has a severe mental illness, schizophrenia. She has been admitted for treatment in 1967, 1971, 1983 and 1996. She is a risk to herself and others and requires psychiatric treatment and care in a secure unit under the appropriate Mental Health Act."

Judge Lait ordered that Yusek, a mother of two, be sent to the secure unit at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, near Hastings.

## House Party is over for Edmonds as viewers quit

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Saturday night television show that irritates celebrities and critics alike — *Noel's House Party* — was scrapped by the BBC last night.

The programme, hosted by Noel Edmonds, one of the BBC's most highly paid presenters, dropped to an all-time low of 5.9 million viewers at the weekend, Peter Salmon, BBC1 controller, said it was time to "move on" after pushing the show "as far as it can go". Edmonds is pressing ahead with plans for a new Saturday evening primetime show that is expected to be aired early next year.

*Noel's House Party* has been killed off after a series of poor reviews and spats involving other celebrities. Trevor McDonald, the *News at Ten* presenter, was outraged when Edmonds tried to make him the subject of a "gotcha" wind-up — a regular feature in his show — by tricking him into

reading out a series of messages in regional slang during recording. Mr McDonald left the set, saying: "I don't do this. I'm not a comedian."

Edmonds has also been involved in a long-running feud with Chris Evans, the Virgin Radio owner. It emerged that Edmonds had been secretly filming Evans for months as one of his spoofs. When Edmonds briefly went on strike at the BBC last year in a dispute over money, Evans offered to take over *Noel's House Party*. He then announced on his radio show that the programme would be "axed by Christmas".

A BBC spokeswoman denied yesterday that the decision was based on poor audiences. "This isn't about ratings. It's about moving forward with fresh ideas and a fresh format," she said. "It's a totally, genuinely joint mutual decision by the BBC and Noel that they want to try something different." She added that the present run of the entertainment series had always been due to end on March 20, the date on which the final programme will be aired.

Edmonds said: "When we sat down to think about the series that had been commissioned for autumn it became clear that we had lots of great ideas but they didn't fit into the *House Party* format."

"That seemed like the perfect point for us to say goodbye to *House Party* and start planning a new show to be unveiled next year."



Edmonds has started planning for new show



Madonna after the awards ceremony: her song began life as British flower-power



Dancing to his tune: Dave Curtiss was working for a laundry company in Acton

## Pop success is not quite at the speed of light

By ADAM SHERWIN

DAVE CURTISS was asleep at his West London flat when a song he wrote almost 30 years ago was hailed among this year's best in Los Angeles. He feels a bit mellow about the music scene these days.

A year ago he was working for a laundry in Acton when he learnt that Madonna was recording a version of his *Ray of Light*. His income from the recording enabled him to give up the laundry job. Now the song has won a coveted Grammy as Best Dance Recording, and he is writing again.

"I'm absolutely delighted," he said. "I'd forgotten that the Grammys were even happening until I got a phone call this morning."

The song was originally called *Sepheria* and was recorded by his flower-power act Curtiss Maldoon, who released an eponymously titled album in 1971, featuring his

late musical partner Clive Maldoon. Maldoon's niece Christine Leach, a member of the band Baby Fox, rediscovered the song and worked on it with the British producer William Orbit. It remained unreleased but Orbit played a rough version to Madonna as he worked on her last album. She loved it and the song, now *Ray of Light*, became the title track and has sold about 10 million.

"I've had reasonable eating money for the past year," Mr Curtiss said. "It's allowed me to keep alive, decorate the flat and buy some recording equipment. But the big stuff comes through next month."

"I thought 'If God wants me to be a songwriter' so I started writing again. Our old album should come out again any day now and I've got a single that people are interested in." The single is a ballad and "more mellow than the songs I

was writing back then". He added: "Things change."

Madonna won four awards at the American music industry's awards, including Best Pop Album, Best Dance Recording and Best Short Form Music Video. She opened the show in a kimono, then stripped to a vest-top to reveal muscles from a strict gym regime as she prepares for a world tour.

Lauren Hill set a record for a female by winning five awards, beating the total set by Carole King 28 years ago. Ms Hill, 23, a soul singer and rapper who is also a member of the Pugees, won Album Of The Year for *The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill* and Best Newcomer.

Eric Clapton took his 12th Grammy award of the 1990s for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance on his song *My Father's Eyes*.

## Pair's fire-raising was farcical

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A LONDONER who had been hired to burn down a failing lace factory in a Scottish village was caught because locals were surprised to see a black man in their community, a court was told yesterday.

Residents of Newmilns, Ayrshire, reported a suspicious-looking stranger to police before any crime had taken place. The choice of fire-raiser was one of the blunders that led to the rapid arrest of Terry

Dixon and the man who hired him, Mauro Weingarten.

Depute Fiscal Murdoch MacTaggart, for the prosecution, told Kilmarnock Sheriff Court yesterday that Dixon, 32, had been hired by Weingarten, 45, managing director of MW Wilson (Lace Ltd), for £1,000 to burn down his factory, which was on a two-day week. Local people were suspicious when they saw him driving around, last February, Mr MacTaggart said.

The court was told that

Weingarten's attempt to get rid of the factory was farcical. The factory boss, from Glasgow, not only paid for Dixon's flight and hire-car by credit card, making the transaction easy for police to trace, but also handed over a wad of cash and was spotted preparing the premises for the blaze.

Dixon did no better. He started the blaze under a sprinkler system. "The police arrived when he was still in the premises and spoke to his girlfriend outside. They heard banging and crashing inside the factory. This turned out to be damage being done by a fork-lift truck."

Dixon was arrested as he left the building with fuel containers. Damage was estimated at £30,000 to the building, stock and machinery. Yesterday, both men admitted fire-raising and causing criminal damage. Their pleas of not guilty to conspiracy to defraud an insurance company were accepted. They were freed on bail pending sentencing.

## Computer game pirate was 11

By PAUL WILKINSON

INVESTIGATORS pursuing the source of pirate computer games pouring onto the market were stunned to find an 11-year-old schoolboy was one of the brains behind the operation.

The child was working from his own bedroom, using equipment bought by his wealthy parents to help him get to grips with the new world of information technology. When industry watchdogs mounted a raid, they found 200 computer disks containing illegally copied material with an estimated retail value of £10,000.

The boy is believed to be the youngest

counterfeiter in a black market said to be worth £3 billion a year. Using state-of-the-art computer hardware, he was making counterfeit copies of popular video games and selling them to friends at the private boarding school where he is a day-boy at up to a fifth of the shop price.

The inspectors were unable to say how many fake discs he had created, but they know he had been operating for more than two months. His unsuspecting parents were horrified to discover what their son had been up to at their home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, and gave their assurance that it would not happen again.

After an investigation by officials from

the European Leisure Software Publishers Association, the boy's equipment, worth several thousand pounds, was forfeited to the authorities. Because of his age, the association decided against a prosecution and declined to identify him.

However, yesterday it issued a stern warning to others about the seriousness of such offences. Terry Anslow, the chief investigator with the association's crime unit, said: "We operate a 'no-tolerance' policy towards pirates and we will always push for the maximum penalty for each offence. Piracy is a direct threat to the jobs and livelihoods of those involved in a legitimate business."

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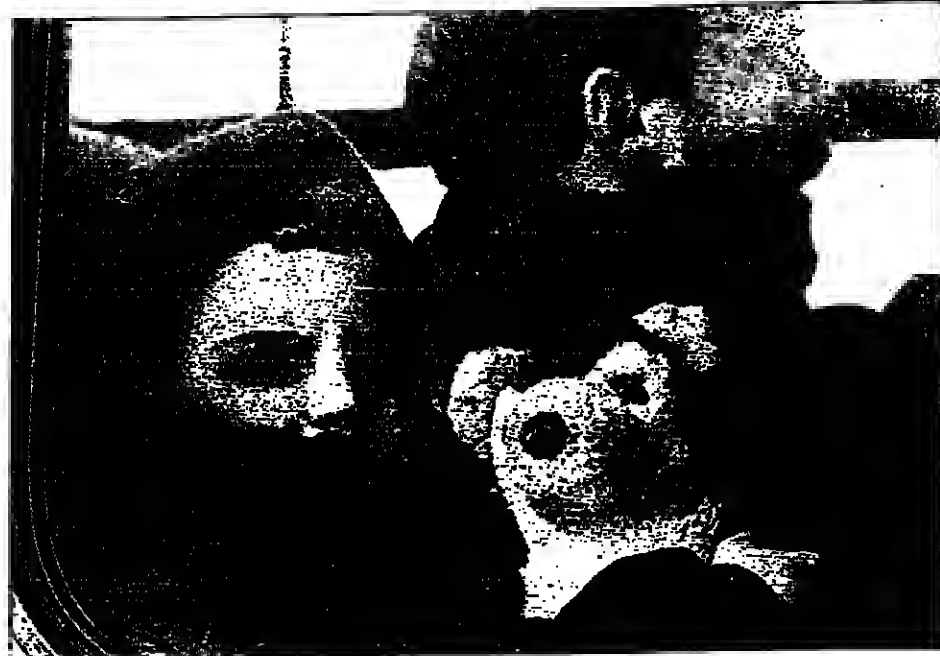
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Evacuated holidaymakers arriving in Landeck yesterday after being flown to safety by helicopter from the stricken Tyrolean village of Galtür



One of the children rescued from the resort of Galtür where at least 27 people died

## White death robs Tyrol village of its children

FROM ROGER BOYES IN LANDECK, WESTERN AUSTRIA

GALTÜR was a village without children yesterday. Only a handful of adult holidaymakers remained, awaiting evacuation, along with barely locals reluctant to leave their bruised homes. Orange-suited rescue workers, staggering with fatigue, pushed long poles deep into the snow, probing for human contact.

Barely a few weeks ago — half-term for English and German schoolchildren — the side streets were littered with playthings, and snowball fights were part of the daily routine. Now Galtür resembles Hamelin after the Pied Piper, cheated of his rat-killing commission, disappeared into the mountains with the children of the town.

It was an avalanche racing down an angry mountain that swallowed Galtür's children and those of its guests. Three small wooden coffins laid to one side in the barracks at Landeck — the base of the rescue operations — reminding anyone who cared to look (and not many did) that children were among the chief victims of what has been called the White Death.

The figures released by the rescue team are fuzzy: 31 bodies have been found, 27 in Galtür, four on the outskirts in a hamlet called Valzur. Perhaps a dozen were children. At least four child deaths have been confirmed and children are among the seven people still reported missing.

Alexandra Frick and her boyfriend looked dazed as they stepped out of an army helicopter yesterday: they had started a ski holiday and ended up by digging out a child from under a concrete stairwell. The stairs saved the child, protecting it from the torrent of snow. For most of the dead children, the concrete was a killer, crushing them with the immense force of the snow behind it.

"In some way the little

corpses we scratched out of the snowdrift were easier to bear than those under the rubble of masonry, all mangled and broken," said Rudolf Pülacher, a rescue worker.

Doctors, at first polite then betraying their frayed nerves, explain in stomach-curdling detail what happens when an avalanche travelling at almost 200mph hits a human. "You can compare it with a detonated bomb," said Dr Peter Kemetzhofer. "The air pressure wrecks inner organs. Lungs, stomach, liver and kidneys are shredded. Fine, concentrated snow and dust particles, which can be as sharp as glass, penetrate every opening in the human body causing massive damage." A child, naturally, has less resistance than an adult.

The arithmetic of Galtür is as follows: it took 15 seconds for the avalanche to cover 400 yards; a person buried under the snow has 15 minutes to survive before suffocating; it took the first rescue team 15 hours to arrive on the scene.

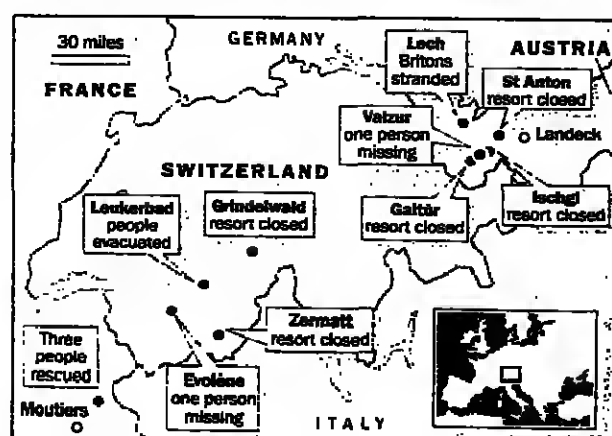
Most of the surviving but injured children were hit by flying tiles and masonry and have suffered broken bones. Those buried underneath the snow for a long period stood little chance. One evacuated mother, completely distraught, had lost two sons.

Galtür, most people seem to agree, is finished as a tourist location. Albert Einstein holidayed there and Ernest Hemingway was so charmed by the little town that in 1927 he wrote a story called *The Mountain Idyll*. Now Galtür has lost its children and its future.

Roads were being cleared yesterday as rescue teams tried to exploit the sunny weather. The forecast is that the weather could close in again and so there was a scramble to complete the evacuation of Galtür and move to neighbouring Ischgl, where there is also an avalanche threat. Throughout the Alps — but particularly in Switzerland, Germany and Austria — 150,000 people are trapped in snowbound villages.

### LINKS

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/uk/landeck> — The Landeck Website, giving the names of those evacuated.



## 'Remarkable' survival of boy aided by cold

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE survival of a four-year-old boy buried beneath an avalanche for 100 minutes was "utterly remarkable", an expert in the treatment of hypothermia said yesterday.

He probably lived because of his age, said Alan Armstrong, a consultant in the accident and emergency department at the University Hospital Aintree in Liverpool.

The cold started a reaction, slowing the child's metabolism to the point where his body and brain required virtually no oxygen. According to reports from Austria, the boy was clinically dead when he was discovered by a sniffer dog late on Wednesday.

"Young people slow down much more rapidly because their body surface to weight is greater," said Mr Armstrong. "It means they can go for long periods without breathing without adverse effect. Even so this is utterly remarkable."

"This is a classical case... the whole body just slows right down. The heart will either beat extremely slowly — perhaps three times a minute — or stop completely."

With any long exposure to cold there was a real risk of brain damage, said Mr Armstrong, making the Austrian boy's apparent complete recovery all the more surprising.

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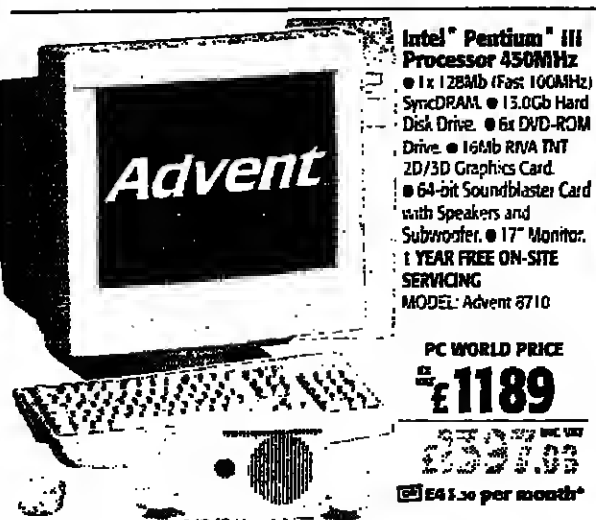
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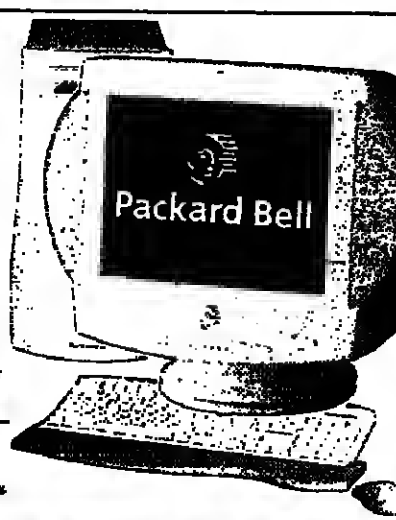
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# Mobile phone saves trio in Alpine ordeal

THREE French hikers stranded for ten days in sub-zero temperatures in the French Alps were discovered alive and well yesterday thanks to a mobile phone.

Their fate has gripped the country since the weekend — fears for their survival growing as successive rescue attempts were abandoned because of bad weather.

The three huddled together in a makeshift igloo they built after becoming lost in a blizzard. Rescuers who plucked Christophe Palichleb and brothers Olivier and Philippe Bourgeois to safety in a helicopter said the three were in good condition after their ordeal in which they had endured arctic conditions at 10,000ft.

Emergency services found the hikers after they used a mobile phone to call local gendarmes yesterday. Working closely with France Télécom, rescuers were able to pinpoint the men's location, but efforts to reach them were hampered by high winds and fog.

The hikers, who ran out of food five days before their rescue, were flown to hospital in Moutiers where doctors pronounced them "weak, but safe and sound". They are being treated for hypothermia and dehydration.

Fear of running down the battery in their phone prevented the hikers from calling more than four times. They

## Helicopter finds stranded hikers after final call for help, writes Susan Bell

first contacted rescue services on Saturday, made two further calls on Sunday and waited until Tuesday before making their final plea for help.

Each time they went outside to telephone, the temperature inside their shelter dropped dramatically, explaining why they preferred to stay put," said Captain Gérard Valich of the rescue services, who paid tribute to the three men's "excellent" organisation and survival techniques.

Their igloo was so well constructed that they were insulated against the wind," he said. Temperatures inside the shelter would have been between zero and two degrees, compared with -15C to -20C outside, a doctor said yesterday.

A helicopter equipped with a heat-seeking device spotted the hikers early yesterday morning. The men had come out of their igloo as the weather had cleared and they had decided that one of them should attempt to ski down the mountain to find help, a dangerous

option because of the high risk of avalanches.

The rescue was welcomed with immense relief by the emergency services. "You can imagine the joy at having saved them, the smiles of their families, our satisfaction," said Captain Valich.

Thousands of holidaymakers were stranded in snow-bound Alpine resorts yesterday as avalanches continued to take their toll. In France a hiker was killed by a wall of snow near Saint-Veran and another injured. A snowboarder was hurt in an avalanche in the Nareyroux Valley above the Puy-Saint-Vincent.

In Switzerland, an avalanche which may have been caused intentionally destroyed several houses and forced the evacuation of about 30 people in the village of Leukerbad. There were no initial reports of casualties. Police launched an inquiry into its cause.



One of the three hikers is helped to his feet by rescuers after surviving for ten days in sub-zero temperatures

## Britons count the cost of disaster

By ADRIAN LEE AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

HUNDREDS of Britons who have spent up to six days stranded by avalanches and heavy snowfalls were yesterday joining the exodus from Tyrolean ski resorts.

Carol Eveleigh, 42, a preparatory school head teacher from Clapham, southwest London, said: "Because the weather has been so bad we have been stuck in our hotel for the past five days."

She estimated that the additional days in their Lech hotel, food and other expenses would total more than £2,000 for her family of four. "There is nothing we can do," she said.

Kenneth McKenzie, a London solicitor, paid £360 for his family and a friend to leave Lech by helicopter yesterday. They were forced to leave their luggage behind.

The Association of British Insurers said that most holiday policies would not cover extra time spent in resorts because of poor weather or avalanches.

death rob  
ol village  
children



Rescuers congratulate each other lying in the makeshift igloo which saved three hikers' lives

## Dogs scent out survivors

"NIFTER dogs have proved invaluable in the desperate hunt for survivors in Galtür. Dogs trained to detect human scent are responsible for hundreds of rescues each year (Christine Middap writes). The dogs are attached to police forces, search and rescue organisations and defence forces worldwide and are called out in most big searches for humans. Dogs have

about 222 million scent receptors in their noses, compared with about five million in humans. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The dogs never cease to amaze us in what they can do. Given the right circumstance, a track can be followed up to 24 hours after it was laid by a human." The main breeds used include German shepherds, labradors and springer spaniels.

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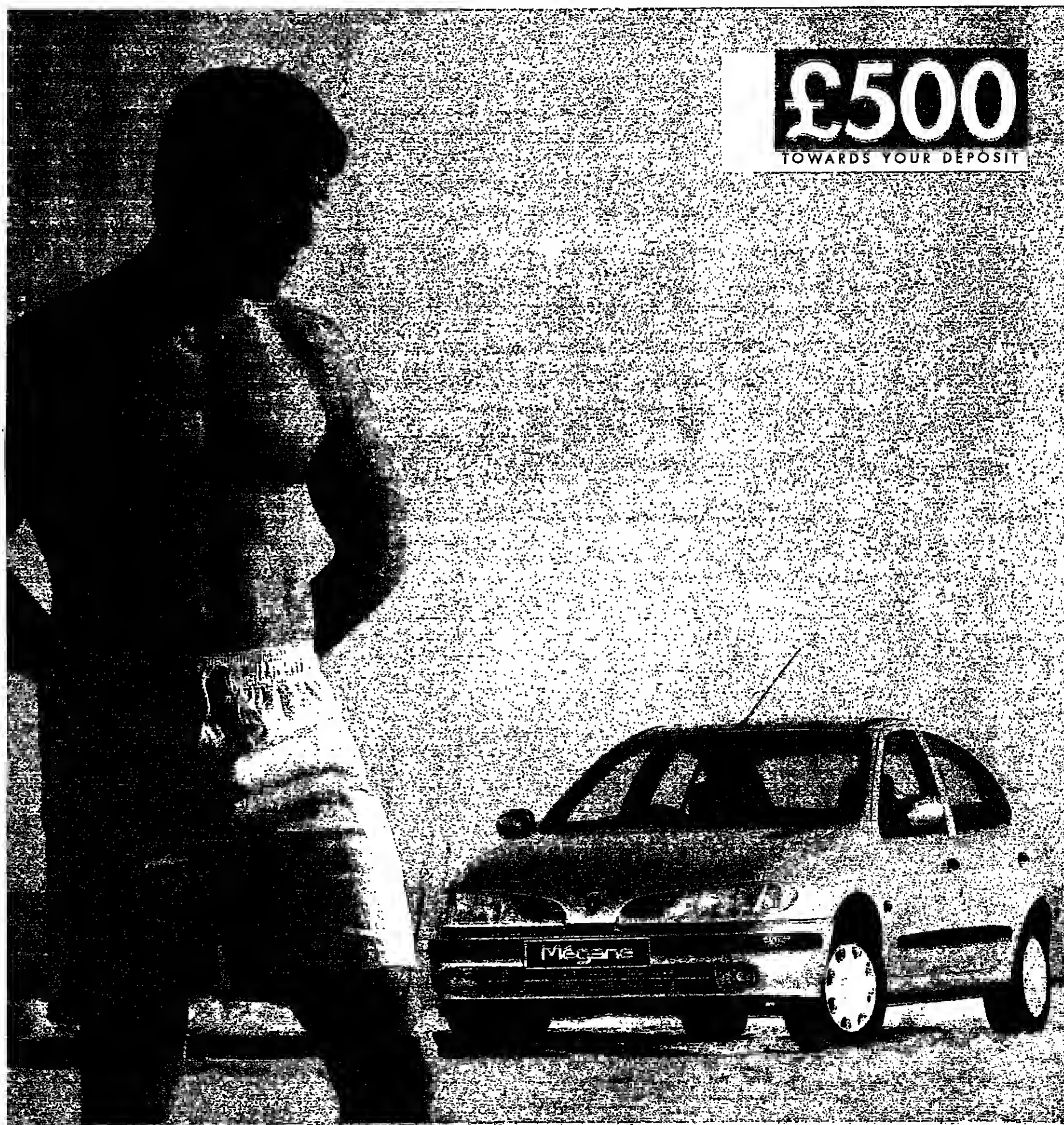
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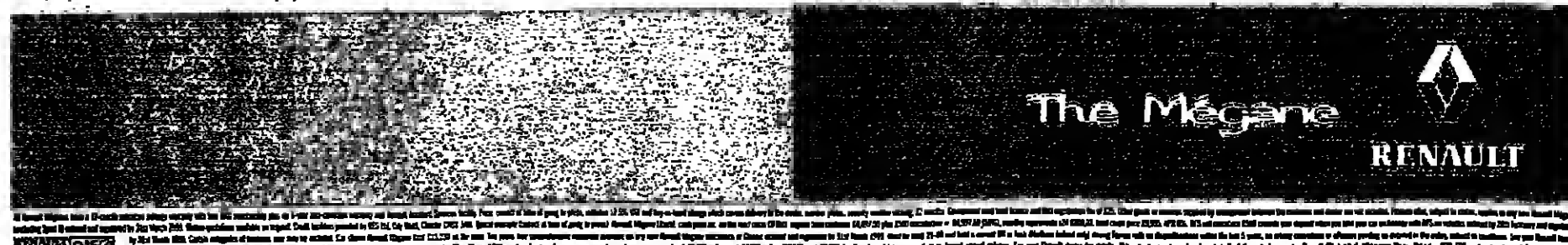
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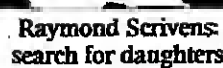
## Evidence reveals divide, report **Mark Henderson** and **Ruth Gledhill**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who has said he may boycott the Dome if there is no Christian prayer, said after yesterday's evidence that his threat still stood. "We are now in discussion. We will see where we are



## BY RACHAEL CROFTS

on the evening of September 11 last year, saying they were going out on a nearby road on their mountain bicycles. He told them to be back by 8pm and not to visit a friend at a caravan site because it was getting dark. In a statement read to the inquest, he said he became worried when they had not returned by 8.30pm and went out to look for them. He



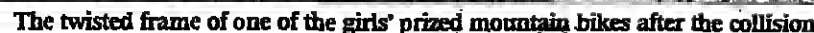
He told police that his primary concern was to reach a telephone and his home was two minutes away: "I rang the ambulance service and requested assistance. I told her I had hit something and that was going back to the scene."


Mr Scrivens returned to the scene of the accident. He said: "I began to fear it was the girls. I could not stop shaking. A police officer said two girls on pedal cycles were involved. The officer then took me up to the scene of the accident. When I got there, I knew immediately it was the girls."

The inquest at Cannock, Staffordshire, was told that Jodie was pronounced dead at the scene after suffering a fractured skull and multiple injuries. Her sister died in hospital.

Miss Brown wept as she told how she had lied to protect the girls. She had said she had not seen them since 6pm because she did not want to get them into trouble.


Andrew Medlicote, a witness to the collision, said that his Vauxhall Corsa was overtaken by a VW Passat "in a right and proper manner" but, as the vehicle passed him, he caught sight of a reflection and realised the other driver had hit somebody, possibly a





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Census to  
ask: how  
much do  
you earn?

# Freedom of





# Census to ask: how much do you earn?

New questions will pinpoint poorest areas, reports Alexandra Frean

THE Government wants Britons to disclose their annual income in the next official census, a White Paper is expected to announce next week.

A new 20-page census form, containing more personal questions than before, will for the first time ask people whether they earn less or more than £25,000. Those earning less will be asked which of several income brackets they fall into.

Although ministers are aware that not everybody can be expected to answer truthfully, they believe that it will provide valuable information about the whereabouts of the nation's most deprived areas. "This is not about finding out where the fat cats are. It is more to do with looking at the lower end of the income scale as one way of measuring social exclusion," the Office for National Statistics said.

Because census confidentiality is protected by legislation, it should—in theory at least—be impossible for information about named individuals to be passed to other government agencies, such as Inland Revenue.

A question on income is nevertheless risky. In trials two years ago, involving 74,000 households in England and Wales, far fewer forms were returned from areas where the income question was included than from those where it was omitted.

The income question is likely to be tested again in the Census Rehearsal on April 25, which will involve 126,000 households in seven local authorities in England, Wales

and Scotland. If the trials are successful, it will be included in the new national form to be issued in 2001.

Other new questions include asking people their religion for the first time since 1981, asking if they care for a sick or dependent family member or friend, and requesting details about their state of health.

In another break with tradition, the Government announced yesterday that the huge job of processing more than 30 million census forms in 2001 has been awarded to the American company Lockheed Martin, better known as a defence contractor. The contract is worth £50 million and is the first time that the job has been awarded to a private contractor.

Art Johnson of Lockheed Martin, which is also contracted to run the American census in 2000, said that the company had developed new scanning and optical-recognition software to enable the forms to be processed by computer for the first time. Previously, each form had to be individually read and the information entered onto computer by hand.

Forms will be available in English and Welsh and translations of the questions will be available on separate sheets in 20 languages. The information will be stored on digital tape and the forms destroyed after they have been processed—another first. This is largely an economy measure: the 1991 paperwork occupies 19 miles of 12ft high shelf space.



Paws for thought: two of the bull terriers take a break from their exertions, while Strapper the Jack Russell prepares to show what he can do



Wellard from EastEnders makes a play for Gill Raddings

## Dogs take the lead in park performance

By Robin Young

A SELECTION of likely looking Crufts contenders went on parade in London yesterday to demonstrate that the annual dog show is about more than aristocratic pedigree. It also emphasises training and good behaviour.

Unfortunately, the latter seemed to be in short supply. A quartet of bull terriers—Alice, Tallis, Rupert and Teddy—described as "miniature" but quite large enough, had to be taken out of Kennel Club headquarters in a state of over-excitement and allowed to romp off their high spirits by belting round Green Park.

A pair of highly refined borzois, Adenov and Alage, could not bear to be parted from each other. "They are brother and sister and he howls like a

mad thing if she is taken even a couple of yards away," Sue Simon, their rueful owner, said. She added: "We will have to take the lift down. We don't do stairs."

Bailey, a sturdy dogue de Bordeaux called on to perform for photographers, consistently sauntered off in the opposite direction.

However Gill Raddings and Julie Tottman of the Stunt Dogs Agency were on hand to prove that some dogs can be taught to act well enough to earn their owners a reasonable living.

They had taken along Wellard, currently starring in *EastEnders*; Saracen, a long-haired German shepherd that is now Nick Berry's dog in *Harbour Lights*, having been

thrown out as an eight-month-old by a family who found it impossible to cope with; and Strapper, a versatile little terrier with a string of screen credits as long as a borzo's nose.

"They can do a lot of useful tricks," Ms Raddings said, "like rolling over, walking on their hind legs or playing dead."

For the photographers' pleasure, Ms Tottman showed off the dogs' abilities by putting the compliable Strapper around her neck, where he proceeded to give a passable impression of a fox fur. After that, the dogs made a collective decision that it was time for walks.

□ Crufts 1999 is at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from March 11 to 14.

## Computer blamed for gun payout delays

By Richard Ford  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER breakdowns and poorly designed claim forms have caused serious delays in the payment of compensation to people forced to surrender their handguns.

Many owners required to hand over weapons because of the ban imposed after the Dunblane massacre are still awaiting compensation, according to a report published by the National Audit Office today.

The government spending watchdog found that there were weaknesses in the compensation system that made checking difficult. Its report says that technical experts should have been consulted before the development of a computer system to deal with claims.

The Home Office system had been brought into operation while faults were still occurring. During the first months that claims were being assessed, there had been "numerous and unpredictable" systems failures and the system had not been running properly until December 1997, six months after guns had first been surrendered.

Handgun ownership was banned in 1997, leading to the biggest surrender of legally held firearms in the United Kingdom. Large-calibre weapons had to be handed in by the end of September 1997, and small-calibre guns by the end of February 1998.

The report noted that on the limited information available, it now appeared that many of the illegal weapons had been replaced by other types of legal weapons, such as muzzle-loading pistols, rifles or shotguns.

The report says that more than 162,000 handguns have been handed in, 25,000 fewer than the original estimate by Home Office officials. By the end of last October, the Home Office had paid out £61 million in compensation.

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# Swap my hotel for your semi?



The 13-bedroom Caledonian Hotel in peaceful Dumfries, population 6,500, could go for £150,000 to pay for a terrace house in frenetic Lewisham, population 243,000, for sale for between £115,000 and £140,000

## Hotelier quits Scottish peace for London terrace, report Claudia Joseph and Michael Horsnell

WITH its beautiful lochs, rocky islands and golf courses, the remote Scottish countryside of Argyllshire seemed the ideal place to retire.

But after only 18 months in the small tranquil town of Dumfries, on the Clyde, Iain Campbell has decided that he prefers the busy streets of the South London borough of Lewisham.

Now he is trying to swap his 13-bedroom, 18th-century Caledonian Hotel for a three-bedroom Victorian terrace house back in the capital.

Mr Campbell, 58, who left his home town of Glasgow in the Sixties, said yesterday: "I have had several calls already. I know I wasn't the only fanatic in London to have dreamed of living in God's country, with the peace and quiet and tranquillity, the fresh air and howling gales.

But I miss the buzz of the city. I'm a rock'n'roller. It may be the gem of Scotland but it's not for me. Lewisham's a terrific place."

Mr Campbell, who worked as an engineering technician in the welding shop at Lewisham College before he injured his arm and decided to retire, is currently based in one of Britain's sparsest areas, which has 3,000 miles of coastline, the same as France.

There are only 91,000 residents, including Lord Attenborough, Frances Shand-Kidd and Emma Thompson, living in the Argyll and Bute area of Scotland, which covers more than 7,000 square kilometres.

The 35 square kilometres of Lewisham is home to 243,000. The crime rate, too, differs. Dumfries, population 6,500, had only three assaults and no bur-



Iain Campbell: misses the buzz of Lewisham glary in January, compared with 179 violent crimes in Lewisham and 150 burglaries.

Mr Campbell, who was once a member of The Big Six house band at the Star Club in Hamburg and played bass with Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, paid £90,000 for the Caledonian Hotel and, after renovating it and hiring a manager, values it at £150,000.

Tony Ravenscroft, of Acorn, a Lewisham estate agent, said

of the three-bedroom, Victorian terrace house that Mr Campbell hopes to acquire: "These properties go for between £115,000 and £140,000, depending on the area. Lewisham has become a popular and trendy area over the past 18 months."

Mr Campbell, who claims to be the inspiration for Gerry Rafferty's hit *Baker Street*, misses his daughter Siobhan, 19, a student at Camberwell College, his former partner Kate and a host of friends.

"I moved back as a kind of nostalgia thing. The countryside is beautiful round here. Loch Lomond is only a half-hour drive away. There are also the golf courses, which are superb. I had friends who were always complaining that there was a shortage of good courses in London."

"But I really miss it down there, the people, the buzz and the way of life. All my mates are in London and I want to go back."

"I know that I am old but I have become a Londoner of the southeastern variety."

## Jail's food makes porridge palatable

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

NO ONE has escaped from Swansea's Victorian jail for years. A possible reason emerged yesterday when the prison was named one of the best places to eat in the country.

The newly refitted kitchen saw off 50 other entrants in the annual contest organised by the city council. Last night the inmates were dining on a menu that included chicken supreme, beef goulash and pasta Italiane.

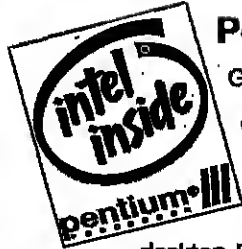
One said: "Some people eat better here than they do at home. I've put on two stone since I came in."

The jail won the gold award despite a budget of £1.41 per prisoner per day. Fresh produce is guaranteed by the prison farm, buying is confined to what is cheap in the market that day.

Christine Steele, leader of the team that inspected the 50 establishments, said: "They may have a captive clientele but the food is top notch."

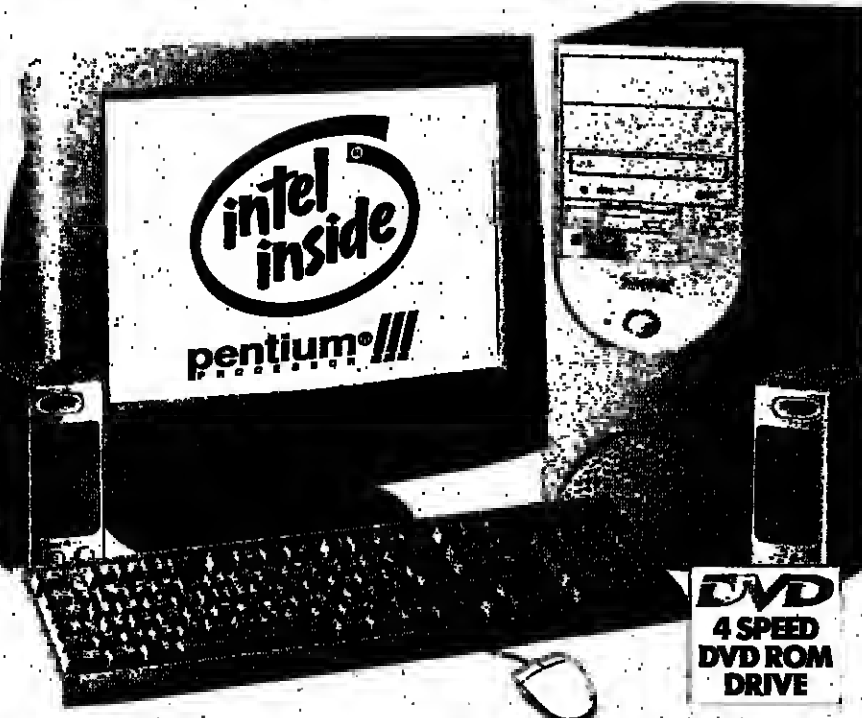
Gary Deighton, the Governor, said: "I'm delighted we're rated as a great place to eat but there's no chance of booking a table here. Every seat is reserved for our regulars."

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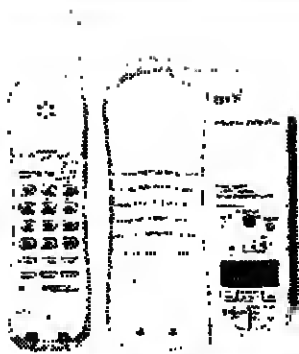
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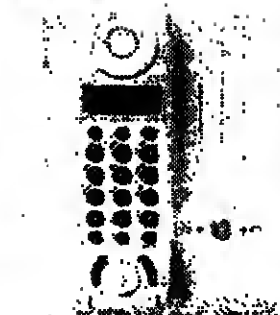


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THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 1999



Room with a view: models wearing designs by Luella Bartley mingle with guests at the show in a Camden flat

## Dedicated followers of fashion take a diversion

FASHION editors spent the past two days penetrating parts of the capital that previous London Fashion Weeks failed to reach.

The off-schedule schedule grew by the hour. That made life fraught for native Londoners, let alone foreigners. "Where or what exactly is Flat 2?" asked one perplexed Italian journalist, scuttling off to invest in a street map.

The flat in question was in deepest Camden and belonged to Steve Mackey, of the pop band Pulp. He had lent it to his friend Luella Bartley for her to present her collection of tongue-in-cheek town and country clothes.

Then it was time to Shoreditch to watch Shelley Fox's strangely beautiful catwalk debut. Even finding details about the shows was a challenge. Chinese whispers rustled through the front row of the first show each morning. By day three, if someone had started a rumour that the Prince of Wales had designed a neo-punk range, there would have been a flurry of cashmere outside Buckingham Palace.

The off-schedule shows have



**Guided by Chinese whispers and a street map, Lisa Armstrong boldly goes to the off-schedule shows that challenge the organisational skills, as well as the senses, of the world's fashion editors**

put the British Fashion Council, which organises the 50 official shows and sponsorship, in a quandary. "We don't know whether we're supposed to acknowledge that they're happening or not," Brian Godber, of the council, said. For instance, should the free taxis provided for journalists by the sponsor Vidal Sassoon take them to the off-schedule Capriwheel Blundell show, sponsored by the rival hair-care company L'Oréal?

Money is the heart of the problem. It costs £10,000 to £30,000 to stage a show in the official venue at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. (Some designers have been kicked off the official schedule for not paying their bills.) And with 50 shows squashed into four days, there

is not room for everyone who would like to be there.

The "off-piste" shows have, however, injected some much-needed sparkle into proceedings. Dai Rees, whose delicate millinery was previously something of an inside secret, unexpectedly launched into clothing. His elegant collection featured drapes and the tweed and tartan moiré that have been a recurrent theme this week. "I need to branch out if my business is to grow and a show is the fastest route to attracting attention," Rees said.

He would have liked to be on-schedule but was rejected on the grounds of space. Other designers prefer to be off-schedule: it adds a touch of edgy credibility, rather like playing off Broadway.

Sometimes they even like to

be off-schedule. Bella Freud, who has long been part of the official set-up, struck out on her own this time with a chic collaboration with the actor John Malkovich. He directed a six-minute film in which the London Underground got a starring role and flashes of Freud's clothing were glimpsed.

Teresa Brach, the daughter of an Austrian heiress who has shown off-schedule for the past two seasons, put her collection of sporty-cum-decorative pieces on the Internet. It cost her £5,000 to set up the website and collate a CD-Rom that allow her clothes to be viewed 24 hours a day.

Are the off-schedule designers any good? Yes and, in some cases, perhaps. Will they sell? Emphatically yes. Bartley has been approached by Saks Fifth Avenue; Fox already sells in Liberty; Brach has had appointments with Japanese buyers all week.

As Calvin Klein said in New York last week: "There's so much talent pouring out of your art and fashion schools all the time, it's incredible."

Style, page 24

## Cancer linked to sperm count

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

Men with a low sperm count have twice the normal risk of developing testicular cancer, a study has found. The researchers do not believe that one condition leads to the other but they think that they are caused by the same unknown factors. The most likely explanation is thought to be chemicals that affected the men while they were in the womb.

Scientists from the Danish National Research Foundation studied the records of all living men born in Denmark between 1916 and 1970. The results, reported in *The British Medical Journal*, showed that the risk of testicular cancer fell with each child fathered.

## Two new iron brews

Scientists have come up with two ways of preventing iron deficiency, which affects nearly four billion people.

American researchers have discovered a way to genetically manipulate crops so that they become several times richer in iron or super-efficient at extracting the mineral from the soil. Canadian scientists have found that providing poor people with iron pots means they and their children grow healthier as the iron dissolves into their food.

## Ouch-free plasters

A plaster that can be removed with less pain and damage to the skin has been developed (Vigil Hawkes writes).

It sticks as firmly as ordinary plasters but is removed by first stripping off a backing layer. That exposes the underlying plaster to light, which destroys the adhesiveness and enables it to be removed easily.

The plaster, which will be put on sale by Smith & Nephew in about two years, will be valuable to babies and elderly people, whose skin is fragile.



Casey: at present deputy director of Shelter

## Homeless get new ally in Whitehall

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE woman appointed by the Government yesterday to champion the cause of homeless people said that she had first begun working with them after realising she could easily have shared their fate.

Louise Casey, who has now been dubbed the homelessness "czar", had wanted to leave home, in Portsmouth, and gain some independence when she was a youngster: she found a job in a holiday camp. "If I had not found this residential job on Hayling Island I don't know what I would have done," she said.

"I sometimes think that is why so many young people today end up on the streets. They don't have anywhere to go and residential jobs are not easy to come by. I was bloody lucky and I think that is what has drawn me to work with homeless people."

Her task is to find places to stay for 400 rough sleepers in London and to be a trouble-shooter in government for the homeless throughout Britain.

Ms Casey, 33, deputy director of the charity Shelter, who begins her new job in May, intends to concentrate on easing the return to the community of servicemen and women, prisoners, and the mentally ill. She said that many people left institutions and could not cope. "I want to prevent them ending up as rough sleepers."

She is to head a unit in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, with a budget of £145 million over three years.

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# Labour support falls to lowest since election

Poll shows Tory fortunes recovering in aftermath of genetically modified foods row, writes Peter Riddell

SUPPORT for Labour and satisfaction with the Government have slipped to the lowest levels since the general election after the row over the Government's handling of the genetically modified foods controversy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that support for the Tories has jumped from 24 to 30 per cent since late January, while Labour has slipped five points to 51 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats are unchanged on 14 per cent. But Labour is still higher, and the Tories lower, than their election voting shares.

However, William Hague's approval rating has dropped, especially among Tory supporters. It is too early to say whether Tory fortunes are at last recovering on a sustained basis, or whether it is just a one-month blip.

Apart from the shift in voting intentions, the negative points for Labour are an increase in dissatisfaction with the Government's performance. The balance of those satisfied less dissatisfied is now even at 45 per cent on each side, for the first time since the general election. Similarly, Mr Blair's rating has continued to slip to its lowest level since the election.

However, nearly three fifths of the public (58 per cent) is satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister, with a third (34 per cent) dissatisfied. The net balance of plus 24 points is down from plus 30 points or more for most of last year. However, the ratings of Mr Blair, the Government and Labour are still much higher than for parties in office at the similar stages of previous Parliaments.

The Tories may be solidifying their core support and have picked up among those aged over 55, those living in the South and women, but they have yet to win back those

who deserted them in 1997. Mr Hague still faces a serious image problem despite the publicity he received from his recent trip to the USA.

Less than a quarter of the public (23 per cent) is satisfied with his performance with more than a half (53 per cent) dissatisfied.

This net balance of minus 30 points is the lowest since last September.

However, Mr Hague's rating among Tory supporters has deteriorated dramatically over the past month with 55 per cent dissatisfied and just 28 per cent satisfied. This net balance of minus 27 points compares with minus 4 points a month ago and is his worst ever figure. That underlines the importance for Mr Hague of the Tories doing well in the forthcoming Scottish, Welsh, local government and European elections.

Moreover, the public is becoming less worried about the economic outlook and the threat of recession after the series of cuts in interest rates.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring the balance of those thinking that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, now stands at minus 15 points, compared with minus 23 points in late January, and is the best figure since last May. Women are much more pessimistic than men, and those aged over 55 more pessimistic than those between 35 and 54.

The public also remains confident about the Government's economic policies with nearly a half (49 per cent) agreeing that, in the long term, they will improve the state of Britain's economy with less than a third (31 per cent) disagreeing.

This balance is only slightly down on a year ago before the last Budget, despite the evidence of slowdown.

While the net balance of plus 18 points is the lowest since Labour came to power, it

was previously only equalled in the Tory years during the Lawson boom of the late 1980s. Gordon Brown's approval rating — 47 per cent satisfied against 28 per cent dissatisfied — is marginally better than this time last year, though lower than the post-Budget ratings.

It is, however, higher than achieved by any of the Conservative Chancellors between 1979 and 1997.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,769 adults at 155 sampling points across Britain between February 19 and 22. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population and voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refuse to name a party (1 per cent).

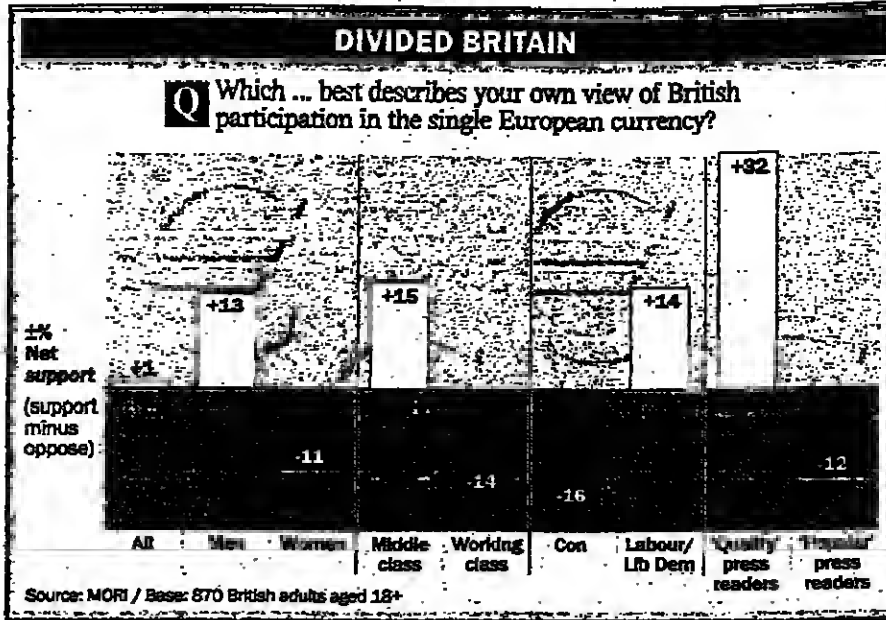
## Everything to play for in euro debate

Peter Riddell  
ON POLITICS

Euro-sceptics claim that the People (and it is always in capital letters) are on their side. They should not be so sure. The latest MORI poll suggests that the public is evenly divided and that there is everything to play for in what will probably be a three-year referendum campaign. The poll was taken before Tony Blair's statement on Tuesday so the figures might show greater support for entry now.

The key point is that the poll does not assume that opinion is static and firm, but differentiates between strong and conditional support and opposition. Of course, the exact balance will vary depending on the exact question asked. A "ditch/save the pound" question would produce different answers. But the balance of opinion against entry has narrowed since the election.

The latest poll confirms the instinctive view that there is a hard core which strongly opposes British participation in the euro. This is now around a quarter of the pub-



lic, down from a third in August 1996. These firm opponents outnumber strong supporters, up from 10 to 17 per cent over the period. In the middle are the waverers, or rather the persuadables whose view depends on what they think would be good or bad for the British economy. This total has remained roughly constant at about half the public, slightly more in the pro than the anti camp. This includes 53 per cent of Labour supporters and 45 per

cent of Tories. This is consistent with regular polls that MORI Financial Services does for Salomon Smith Barney which shows that the gap between pros and cons is roughly ten points smaller if people are asked about their attitudes if the Government strongly urged that Britain should be part of a single currency, as would happen in a referendum.

The Blair Government is not therefore facing a majority of sceptics, but rather, a mi-

nority of diehard opponents, and half the public which says it is persuadable either way.

Persuasion will depend on not only the euro being successful but also on Mr Blair being able to demonstrate entry is in Britain's economic interests, in itself an elastic term.

The sceptics are torn. Some claim adamantly that a majority of people are on their side: hence *The Sun's*

bold assertion yesterday that 121,764 of its readers voted to save the pound, a 15 to 1 margin. This is not in any way a representative poll, but rather a demonstration that some readers feel strongly enough to pick up a telephone. It is no guide to the balance of opinion.

The MORI poll shows that 37 per cent of *Sun* readers are strongly opposed and 28 per cent are generally opposed to the pound, while 13 per cent strongly support entry and 17 per cent generally support but are persuadable. This suggests there are 45 per cent of waverers.

Other sceptics, including the Tory leadership, are worried about the "inevitability" argument — that Mr Blair is trying to create a climate where entry is seen as obvious and desirable. The poll shows that two-thirds of the public think it is likely that they and their children will regularly use a single European currency and coinage by 2010. That is not the same as British entry, but such expectations can affect attitudes.

So don't assume opinion is fixed. It all depends which side is seen as more credible and persuasive. No wonder Mr Blair was smiling on Tuesday at the Tory divisions.

## Tide may turn for seaside resorts

By Valerie Elliott  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

FADED English tourist resorts are to receive cash help from the Government to help to restore them to their former glory.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has approved a plan to allow local authorities to apply for regeneration grants for "tourism" purposes. The scheme is aimed at the seaside towns where drug addicts, jobless and homeless people have moved into dingy beds and breakfast hotels.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also to encourage holiday towns to think creatively about developing new attractions and to consider National Lottery cash as a source of funding.

The revamp of the resorts is part of a 15-point strategy to be unveiled today to make Britain a major tourism centre in Europe for the Millennium. Mr Smith believes the publicity surrounding the Millennium Dome at Greenwich will attract another two million people to Britain next year.

He believes those involved in the tourism industry must "raise their game" to cope with the demands from a new breed of traveller.

Tomorrow's Tourism, to be launched in the dome today, will stress the need for greater quality, higher standards and more helpful service at hotels and tourist attractions.



Prescott: approved grant scheme for seaside towns

## SNP plan 'is biased against English'

By Jason Allardice  
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE SNP was last night accused of discrimination over plans to abolish tuition fees for Scots but to require English students at Scottish universities to pay.

The party is now considering giving Scotland's 32 councils money to distribute as bursaries only to those living within their boundaries. The SNP strategy, costing at £46 million a year, is designed to prevent an invasion of Scottish universities by students from England desperate to avoid £1,000 a year tuition fees.

The proposal was immediately criticised by politicians and student leaders because only students resident in Scotland would qualify for assistance. It means that about 17,000 English students studying at Scottish universities and further education colleges would continue to pay.

Jim Murphy, the Labour MP for Eastwood, said: "This would be a sad day for Scottish education, which is enriched by its diversity. Under the SNP, students would have to pass two exams: a reasonable academic one and a thoroughly disreputable one on citizenship."

The National Union of Students in London said it supported any moves to abolish tuition fees, but voiced concern that the SNP would penalise thousands of people studying in Scotland because they were not resident there.

Nicola Sturgeon, the SNP education spokesman, refused to confirm or deny any details of the party's education proposals, which will be unveiled next week. Party strategists are now examining whether students from England should be classed as resident in Scotland once they have been accepted for a university place — although this would not get around the problem of Scottish universities being flooded with applications from all over the UK.

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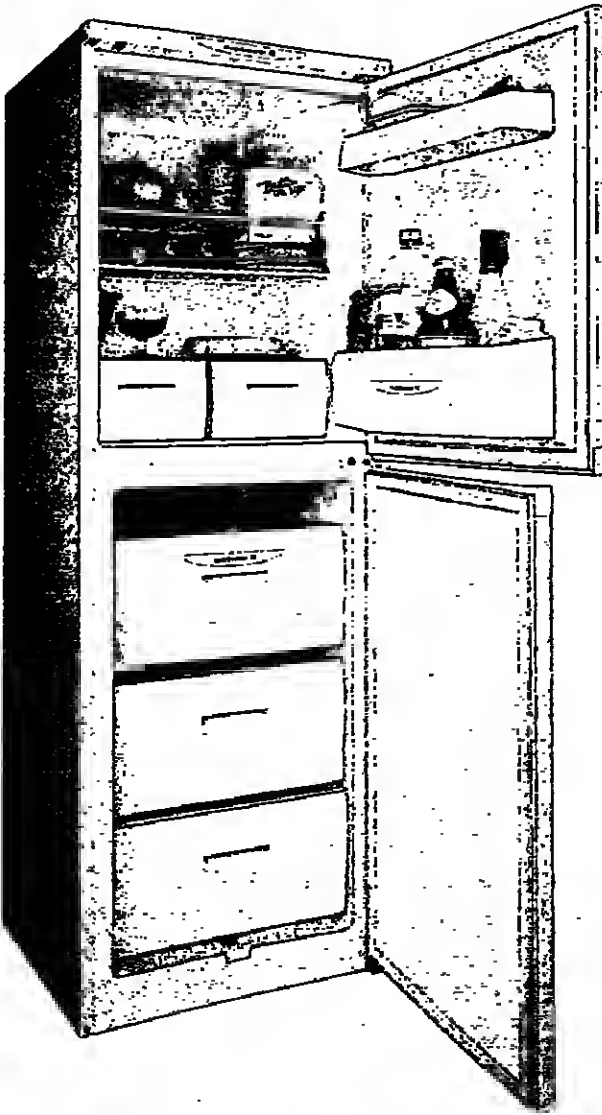
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Register of Members' Interests: updated figures show politicians admitting they are earning thousands of pounds from part-time journalism

# MPs who profit by swing to the write

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a quarter of all MPs last year earned between a few pounds and £55,000 from the media, according to the new Register of Members' Interests.

Some 184 MPs admitted yesterday that they had accepted money for journalism.

The register, which had not been updated for more than a year, reveals MPs to be more diligent — or more cautious — than before.

Not only are the existing entries more detailed, but more MPs have declared something for the first time. While 145 MPs failed to declare any interests in October 1997, only 112 this time did not make an entry.

The register includes an entry by Peter Mandelson about the loan he received from Geoffrey Robinson "to assist in purchase of [a] home" while Mr Robinson, the former Paymaster General, uses the Register to declare for the first time the Guernsey-based trust from

which he is a discretionary beneficiary.

The MPs making money from the media comprised 82 Labour MPs, 76 Tories, 20 Liberal Democrats and a handful of members from minority parties. In the language of the Register, they made "occasional earnings from journalism and broadcasting".

For some MPs, the payments amount to nothing more than a few hundred pounds in recompense for the occasional television interview. Some MPs say the money goes to a favourite charity or their constituency funds.

But for others it is a major source of income. The highest earner is George Galloway (Lab, Glasgow Kelvin) who earned almost £55,000 for a regular column in the Scottish edition of the *Mail on Sunday*.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, did equally as well: she earned £15,000 from making six programmes for Channel 4, and

her new six-month contract for a weekly column in the *Sunday Express* will net her almost £40,000. Neither come close to the previous record held by Lord Hattersley, who in the January 1997 Register admitted to earning almost £110,000 a year from journalism.

Frank Field, the former Welfare Reform minister, gets up to £20,000 for a regular column in the *Sunday People*. Roseanna Cunningham (SNP, Perth) earns the same amount for a weekly column in the *Scottish Mirror*.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, gets up to £15,000 for a weekly column in the *News of the World*; he also writes a weekly racing column for *The Herald*.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, earns up to £15,000 a year for a weekly interview or commentary on Bloomberg Television.

David Curry, Tory MP for Skipton and Ripon, earned up

to £10,000 a year for a column in *Farming News*.

*Accountancy Age*, a trade magazine, seems a popular source of cash for MPs. Nick Gibb (C, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton) gets up to £5,000 a year for an occasional column, as does Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman.

Stuart Bell (Lab, Middlesbrough) — who earned up to £15,000 for regular articles for the *Financial Mail on Sunday* — also picked up £5,000 from *Accountancy Age*. Jim Cousins (Lab, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central) got up to £1,000 a year for a regular column in the magazine.

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, South Staffordshire) earned up to £15,000 a year as editor of *The House Magazine*, the Westminster parish magazine.

His assistant editors, Charles Kennedy, a potential replacement for Paddy Ashdown, and John Hensley (Lab, Weymouth and Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) were each paid up to £5,000.

Paul Stinchcombe (Lab, Wellingborough) earned up to £1,000 for a monthly column in *Planning Magazine*. Phil Woolas (Oldham East and Saddleworth) earned a fee for doing a television commentary for the TUC congress.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, is non-executive chairman of the media group which publishes several major regional newspapers.

Tina Yeo, Shadow Agriculture Minister, writes for *Country Life*.

## Shellfish and spoons fill the gift hamper

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

MPs declare a wealth of gifts, including membership to Stringfellows and an unspecified "quantity of crabs and lobsters". The latter was received by the veteran Tory MP for Totnes, Sir Anthony Senn, who was presented with an unlisted amount of shellfish to honour his services to the fishing industry.

It is not recorded why Nigel Evans, the Labour MP for Ribbles Valley, was given a pass to Stringfellows.

Like every other MP, they are obliged to register any gift that is valued above £125. Charles Wardle, the former Tory minister and MP for Bexhill and Battle, has registered a hamper that he received on his birthday. Mr Wardle makes a point of saying this was "completely unsolicited",

which is not surprising given the hamper came from Harrods, proprietor Mohamed Al Fayed.

Ann Widdecombe, the Shadow Health Secretary, emerges as equally cautious. Under "Gifts, benefits and hospitality", Ms Widdecombe includes "one BBC teaspoon bent and signed... intrinsic value nil". However, the spoon was presented to Ms Widdecombe by Uri Geller, who told her

that a similar spoon had raised a five figure sum at a charity auction.

On the whole, Labour MPs do not seem to attract such high quality presents as their Tory counterparts. Gerry Bermingham (St Helens South) owns up to the loan of a satellite dish, while Jane Humber (Blackpool North and Fleetwood), has only one entry in the register: a model sailing ship from F&O Ltd.

## Match tickets are top leisure goal

By MARK INGLEFIELD

WATCHING football is the most popular leisure perk for MPs. Nearly 30, both women and men, have revealed they have been given tickets and hospitality for national and international matches over the past two years.

Although rugby internationals, test matches and Wimbledon feature in the Register of Members' Interests, football is the preferred form of corporate entertainment.

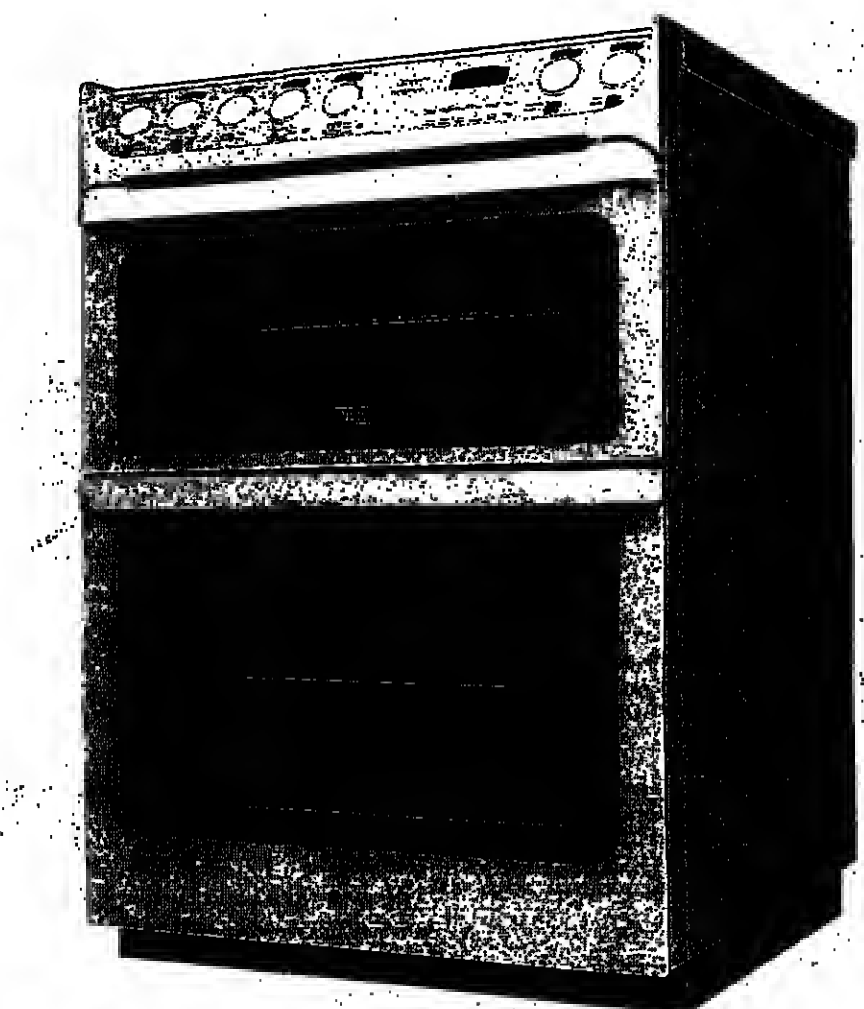
Jim Wallace, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader and MP for Orkney and Shetland, went to the Scotland v Brazil World Cup match in Paris last year, when Scottish Gas paid for his ticket, hotel and meal. The company also arranged for David Marshall, Labour Member for Glasgow Shettleston, to attend the match.

But they were not alone. Tom Pendry, the Labour MP for Staybridge and Hyde, was at the game as a guest of the StadiVarios Group, who paid for his travel on the Eurostar and a night's stay in Paris. Stephen Hepburn, the Labour MP for Jarrow, went one better. He spent three days in Paris as a guest of Epiney-sur-Seine for the World Cup final between France and Brazil.

Not only international games attract MPs. Judith Church, Labour MP for Dagenham, took her family to watch Tottenham Hotspur play Everton and Middlesbrough. On both occasions she was the guest of Hillside Management Group.

Littlewoods Pools gave hospitality and two tickets for last year's FA Cup final to Jane Kennedy, Labour MP for Liverpool Wavertree. Bill Rammell, the Labour MP for Harlow, attended a European Cup match between Arsenal and Lens at Wembley as a guest of McDonald's.

Tories favoured other sports. One of them, Bernard Jenkin, Shadow Transport spokesman, had a day's shooting at Boxted, Essex.



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# Tide turns in favour of wave power

MACHINES named Whiplash and Limpet are to pioneer the commercial development of wave power in Britain. Nearly a decade after the Government withdrew support for wave schemes, the technology is to be given renewed backing after studies showing that costs have more than halved.

Lord McDonald, the Scottish Business and Industry Minister, said yesterday that wave-power projects at Islay had support under a special levy on electricity bills to encourage green schemes.

"This will open up new opportunities for a range of technologies," he announced at a meeting at Ayr, a wind turbine maker in Glenrothes. The schemes in Scotland for wave power and a £42 million wood-burning power plant have been approved along with a string of wind-power projects. The approval guarantees a market and premium price for generators of green power plants during the costly start-up phase.

The cost of electricity generated from wave power is down to about 7p a unit. From wind, it is now down to about 2p in some cases, making it as competitive as gas.

Whiplash is the brainchild of Richard Yemm.

It is a tube of steel 100 metres long and 3.4 metres wide, with about 15 special joints. It is moored into the waves and snakes from side to side and up and down. Pumps inside each segment force oil down a

## Nick Nuttall reports on new plans to get electricity from the sea as costs fall

pipe to a hydraulic motor. This in turn drives a generator with the electricity fed via an undersea cable to shore.

Two Whiplash machines, able to generate 750 kilowatts, are to be installed about a mile offshore at Machir Bay, Islay. Dr Yemm, 30, said they would cost about £2.25 million over three years. He added: "I am delighted. This is a very important start for wave power. We are now starting to get the same support as wind power."

There was no reason why the technology could not be deployed elsewhere, he said. Studies by the European Commission indicated that Britain could generate all its electricity from the waves if 0.1 per cent of the wave energy around the coast was collected.

The Limpet wave-power machine is the work of Wavegen, formerly called Advanced Research Technologies, of Inverness. For the company, Allan Thompson said that its machine would also be off Islay. Waves smashing into a gully on the island push air to spin a

turbine. The turbine spins the opposite way as the waves subside and air is sucked back down. The machine is an improved version of an experimental station built by Queen's University, Belfast. Mr Thompson urged the Government to back wave power south of the border as well.

The new contracts were awarded under the Scottish Renewables Obligation, which means that households pay a subsidy towards higher costs of green power to safeguard the environment by reducing greenhouse gases. A similar levy, the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, operates in England and Wales. The next round of this will promote the country's first offshore wind schemes.

Mr Thompson said that wave power should be promoted with wind so that the same section of sea can produce far more electricity at a cut price. "You could have wind turbines sitting on top of wave machines."

Details of a third wave machine are being kept confidential until the developers have been told. Lord McDonald also announced plans for Britain's biggest wood-into-power scheme to be built at Morayhill, next door to a timber mill near Inverness.

The 12.9 megawatt power plant is big enough to heat and light about 12,000 homes and will burn wood wastes. It is about two megawatts bigger than one undergoing construction in Yorkshire.



Winner: Claudia Cardinale at the Giorgio Armani store in Knightsbridge yesterday

## Claudia joins highest stars

THE Italian actress Claudia Cardinale was celebrating yesterday after being elevated to an exclusive club that includes Bette Davis and Elizabeth Taylor.

Cardinale, star of films ranging from *The Pink Panther* to *Fitzcarraldo*, was given a reception at the Giorgio Armani store in Knightsbridge, London, the day after being honoured with a Rudolf Valentino Award. The awards, solid gold statuettes, are sponsored by the Ital-

ian Prime Minister and the Motion Picture Association of Italy and given each year to an actor, an actress and a director.

This year's two other winners were the actor Jeremy Irons and the director Bernardo Bertolucci. Cardinale faced competition from Julie Christie, Kristin Scott-Thomas, Maggie Smith and Emma Thompson. As well as Davis and Taylor, previous winners of the actress award include Grace Kelly and Sophia Loren.

## Theatre plot to expand creates a scene

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE innovative Hampstead Theatre has angered residents in North London with a £20 million expansion plan that would destroy a park, playground and market.

The National Lottery has already awarded nearly £1 million to take the theatre "through to a design stage", although yesterday the theatre still could not say how much — except to the nearest £10 million — the scheme would cost.

Residents say the park may be small — about the size of a football pitch — and run-down but it is a green space in which to breathe, a place for parents with prams and for the elderly. They fear that an all-weather sports pitch, a playground, a community centre and a street market will also have to make way for a massively expanded theatre with little relevance for most of the community.

Camden council's planning approval ran into strong criticism when it was found that two councillors on the theatre board had voted in favour despite being advised by the council's lawyers to stand aside.

James Williams, the theatre's general manager, said that the 39-year-old building would not survive more than three years because of subsidence and wet and dry rot. Rebuilding on the same site was impossible because it was too small to meet modern regulations. "An alternative open space would be found."

The theatre's claim that 60 per cent of the community favours the scheme is widely disputed. John Breckon, managing director of a City conference business, said that developers in the City had shown how to tackle a limited space: "They dig down into the foundations and put up brilliant new buildings."

Another resident said: "It's the cost that's so staggering. There's not exactly a shortage of theatres in London. But there is a shortage of green space and sports grounds, especially here."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Adams's lawyer is charged

The Australian lawyer of Gary Adams has been charged with assaulting police. Terry Fisher was allegedly involved in a scuffle on Tuesday night at the Queensland Irish Association in Brisbane, where Mr Adams had been speaking.

Mr Fisher's lawyer, Terry O'Gorman, said his client would "vigorously" deny the charge when he appeared in a Brisbane court on March 10.

Mr Adams is visiting Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane but will not meet any senior members of the Australian Government.

### Party death

Friends of Ian Clifton photographed him with a blow-up doll at a party not knowing that he was probably dead from alcohol poisoning. A coroner said friends' neglect contributed to the accidental death of Mr Clifton, 35, of Sheffield.

### VC sets record

A Victoria Cross won on the second day of fighting in the First World War was bought by a collector for a record £92,000 at auction in London. Major Ernest Alexander earned the VC on August 24, 1914, during the retreat from Mons.

### Time to decide

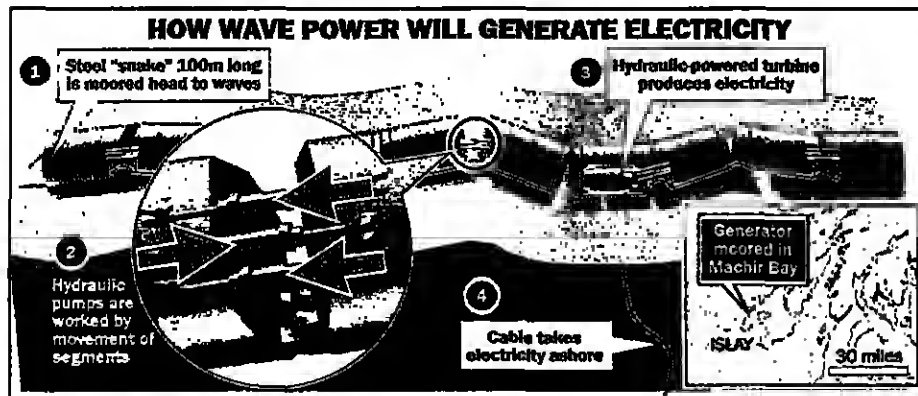
The High Court has reserved judgment on a claim by members of the pit deputies union Nacods that RJB Mining is unlawfully requiring them to work more than the 48 hours a week laid down by the new Working Time Regulations.

### M-way warning

Drivers are being warned to expect delays on the M1 near Nottingham between 7pm on Saturday, March 6, and 3pm the next day. The section between junctions 24 and 25 will be closed to enable the construction of a road bridge.

### More Madness

The 1980s pop band Madness have reformed their original seven-strong line-up to record the first new songs for 15 years. The group, led by Suggs, presenter of Channel 5's *Night Fever*, are working on a single and an album.



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Hartlebury, Leicester North,  
Market Harborough,  
Northampton (Upon Way),  
Nuneaton, Oswestry,  
Retford, Rugby, Shrewsbury,  
Uppingham, Wellingborough,  
Worship.

East Anglia/South East  
Cambridge South,  
Cambridge West,  
Feering (Colchester),  
Hellingly (Eastbourne),  
Huntingdon, Ipswich  
(Beacon Hill), Ipswich (Capel),  
Ipswich (Stowmarket),  
Kings Lynn (Long Sutton),  
Lincoln, Norwich, Sleaford,  
Thrapston.

The South  
Alton (Fournemouth),  
Amesbury (Stonehenge),  
Barton Mills, Beckington,  
Bedford (South West),  
Billingshurst (Five Oaks),  
Bognor Regis (Fontwell),  
Chichester (West), Exeter,  
Ilminster, Uphook (Hants),  
Okehampton East,  
Okehampton West,  
Oxford, Stonehouse,  
Sutton Scotney North, Sutton  
Scotney South,  
Taunton, Tiverton, Towcester  
(Silverstone), Warrminster.

Wales and Ireland  
Bangor, Belfast, Cork,  
Halkyn (North Wales),  
Llanelli (Cross Hands),  
Monmouth, Penrised,  
St Clears (Carmarthen),  
Waterford (Ireland),  
Wrexham.



# Servers are the {engines of e-business}

Every month 53,000 servers go online.

IBM

53,000 servers



## On the Web, everything depends on the server.



e-business is when you electronically connect everything that is critical to your business. Customers, employees, vendors, suppliers, can all be connected via intranets, extranets or over the Web. People and teams can work closely and more effectively, even if they've never met.

The Web is no longer simply a better way to publish and distribute information. It has become the conduit for the billions of information exchanges that make up business.

Universities are allowing candidates to earn their master's degrees online. Service industries are enabling customers to track packages from their own home or office PCs. Companies are taking their entire supply chains to the Web.

And on the Web, everything depends on the server. The ability of your customers to find you. The experience they have once they get there. The security of your transactions. The integrity of your data. In an e-business world, you're only as good as your servers.

They seem so anonymous. Working away quietly in the basement of your company's headquarters, down the hall in a windowless room, or stacked in a closet by the lift shaft. Most executives never even see these engines of e-business.

But just as the proliferation of affordable personal computers transformed the desktop, a new generation of fast and powerful servers are transforming the business world.



Lotus Domino runs on all IBM servers from Netfinity to S/390. On our AS/400, RS/6000 and S/390 servers, over 20,000 mail users can run Lotus Domino concurrently.

e-business is about transactions. Every day, billions of transactions are conducted on IBM servers.

### Servers matter

In this new transaction-based world, your server choice is critical. A server that isn't secure can permanently destroy your customers' confidence in you and your online place of business.

A server that can't scale up to increased traffic can end up turning profitable customers away.

Powerful servers now cost as little as basic PCs did just a few short years ago. But the issues you face in buying them are radically different and much more complicated.

What operating system do you choose if you're just starting out in business and expect to rapidly expand?

What server lets you grow at a moment's notice?

Is the server solution for the human resources department of a multinational corporation the best one for a small consulting firm?

We can help you work through these issues because we've been solving them for thousands of businesses for decades.



IBM EuroReady™

### IBM. The world's largest server company

According to IDC, an independent research body, IBM is the world's largest server company.\* We build and install more servers than anyone else, including Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers. Through a combination of four ranges: the Netfinity, AS/400, RS/6000 and S/390 servers, we can deliver an e-business solution for your organisation. Our server family can handle anything from a lone server running single applications, such as e-mail or a specific database, to a server connecting tens of thousands of employees around the world.

Whether it's a single server or a combination working in harmony, there is no one solution, anyone who tells you there is, is trying to pull the wool over your eyes. The benefits and strengths of the server solution we offer you will depend on the practices and conventions of your business and the industry you work within.



IBM offers a range of servers for e-business for the smallest to the largest company, including affordable Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers. All current IBM servers are Year 2000 ready.\*\*



## On the Web, a server that crashes is a customer service problem.

The simple promise of the Web and e-business is that you can instantly reach millions of people, everywhere – anytime. Consider: as you're going to bed, billions of people around the world are just getting up. This is why doing business 24-hours a day, 7-days a week is so important.



All IBM Netfinity servers are built on Intel processors. The IBM Netfinity 7000 M16 is powered by the new Intel Pentium II Xeon processor, providing it with the leading benchmarks in its class.

### An e-business never closes

IBM's reputation has always been built on reliability.

Our newest and most affordable servers, the Intel-based IBM Netfinity series, are establishing some of the most impressive numbers for reliability and availability in the Windows NT environment. Our Netfinity 3000 is allowing smaller businesses to offer customers and clients around-the-clock access to catalogues, inventories and information.

IBM's ultrascaleable UNIX platform, the RS/6000, powers some of the most successful and bookmarked e-business sites.

AS/400's proven capabilities, along with the ability to run Java and NT, have made it one of the most popular mid-range servers.



The UNIX-based IBM RS/6000 SP has powered some of the most heavily visited Web sites in history – including the Nagano Olympic Winter Games with 634,716,488 hits over 16 days.

### The five nines

Several hardware companies are touting their long-term strategies for achieving 'Five Nines' (99.999% availability); IBM is already delivering.

Our latest S/390, the G5 Enterprise Server with Parallel Sysplex clustering technology, gives your business the closest thing to continuous computing. In fact, with just five minutes of estimated planned or unplanned downtime a year, it's no wonder many customer service based organisations rely on the S/390 as the centrepiece of their e-business activities.



99.999% reliability equals  
5 minutes of downtime per year. 97% reliability  
equals a loss of 263 hours per year.

## On the Web, a server that isn't secure is a customer confidence problem.

Security is a recurring nightmare for the people charged with keeping your systems running and your data protected.

Security is the first thought when constructing an IBM server and is never thought of as a third party.

IBM has spent over three decades securing the world's corporate networks ensuring a sound night's sleep for security experts everywhere.



Every Netfinity server includes a 3-year limited onsite warranty, 90-day IBM Start Up Support, and Lotus Domino at no extra cost. Attractive financing is available for all models.

### Powerful, hacker-resistant servers

Your customers' data is vitally important to them. Protecting this data is your mission in life if you manage an e-business. And, because this data resides on your servers you need servers that are designed to keep intruders out and away from information. IBM servers are a hacker's worst nightmare.

IBM servers can be configured with security ranging from passwords to certificates on smart cards – you determine exactly who's on your network's guest list and who isn't.

Robust SSL encryption capability, available on every IBM server, helps businesses get into e-business while minimising the risk of leaving themselves or their customers open to a breach in security.

IBM e-Business software such as Net.Commerce, part of the WebSphere family allows nearly all organisations to take their core business to the Web, without creating an unsourced gateway to their private information.

IBM helps major international airlines make their reservation systems available to flyers, allowing them to book flight reservations and purchase tickets from their databases. These are now sizeable businesses for those airlines.

The security of IBM servers provide network managers with the comfort of knowing they have the most complete protection available when their company conducts business across a network through an extranet or on the Web.

**Read on and learn more**

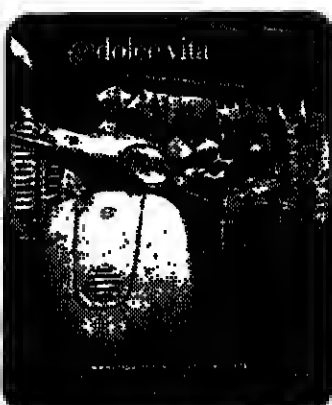


## On the Web, a server that isn't scalable is a business problem.

### e-business works



Cheltenham's stadium holds around 35,000 people but millions of fans can visit the online Megastore, and buy merchandise securely, thanks to IBM Net.Commerce.



An IBM solution built with Lotus Notes lets Vespa reach millions of customers they wouldn't otherwise be able to reach, creating a 24-hour-a-day showroom.



Yamaha Global Jukebox Technology puts digital music on the Web. IBM technology puts it at your fingertips.

As a company's Web site becomes a primary source of interaction between the company and its customers, scalability and e-business growth becomes a major issue.

Scalability means providing a structure that can grow to support thousands of users at a reasonable cost.

IBM has been tackling this issue for years.

As with built-in reliability and security, IBM servers are designed to be scalable for enormous growth. Growth is what IBM servers are about. If you want your company to grow, e-business will make it happen.

### Massively scalable Web sites

How big e-business will become is anyone's guess. Whatever happens there are massive opportunities and goals that e-business can help you identify and achieve.

A major European mail-order company chose an S/390 to host their Web site because of its superior scalability. The sheer power and size of S/390 allows for virtually unlimited growth.

This member of the server family also provides the high levels of security required by online marketers, banks, brokerages and other commercial institutions and businesses.

The RS/6000 SP server has powered some of the most heavily visited Web sites in history - including the Nagano Olympic Winter Games with 634,716,480 hits over 16 days, and the 1998 Wimbledon Championship Web site which handled 145,478 hits in a single minute.

The 1998 PGA TOUR Web site accommodated more information-hungry enthusiasts than anyone imagined. Handling more than 200 million page views, it attracted thousands of golf fans. The site, [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com) with real time scoring, exclusive stores and shopping is solely powered by IBM servers.

Every IBM server, from the smallest Netfinity to the most powerful IBM S/390, can handle the traffic, transactions and scalability that e-business demands.

*fact* e-business is more than  
buying books on the Web. 60% of online  
commerce is business-to-business.



## On the Web, you need people with experience.

Connecting the systems you have to the Web requires knowledge of some complex and often disparate technologies. This is where IBM's expertise and long experience in integrating multiple architectures, software and operating systems can work to your advantage.

We have more knowledge of working with a mix of Windows NT, UNIX, mid-range and enterprise servers than any other company.

IBM Global Services, in conjunction with our many worldwide Business Partners, can help you assess, plan, design, implement and run your e-business. And IBM Global Financing can help you choose the most effective way to finance your e-business solution, with a payment plan customised to meet your needs.

IBM has helped companies of every size become e-businesses faster than these organisations ever thought was possible. IBM has helped small to medium-size businesses become e-businesses in a few weeks.

We've helped huge companies become fully-fledged e-businesses in a matter of a few short months.

To find out how our engines of e-business can improve your organisation visit [www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk](http://www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk) or call Edward Bailey any time between 8.30am and 6pm, Monday - Friday on 0800 400 000.

Our Web site will explain how our family of servers can help you turn your business into an e-business, or help your existing e-business operate more efficiently and more profitably.

[www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk](http://www.ibm.com/servers/ebusiness/uk)

## Questions?

What e-business solutions would you like to know more about?

- ☐ How to establish a Web site.
- ☐ How to sell merchandise or services over the Web more effectively.
- ☐ How to make your supply chain more efficient and get products to market faster.
- ☐ How to use the Web to reach new markets.
- ☐ How to put your core business processes online (such as HR, competitive bidding, etc.).

What do you think you need to help you achieve your e-business goals?

- ☐ Strategic consulting. (How can I use e-business to help my business?)
- ☐ Technology consulting. (How do I combine new technology with my existing systems in a cost-efficient manner?)
- ☐ Expertise on how e-business can help me in my industry.
- ☐ Help integrating my networks so they run seamlessly.
- ☐ High-volume servers capable of handling millions of hits a day while conducting complex transactions.
- ☐ Help developing custom applications, intranets and extranets.
- ☐ Advice on security. (How do I protect my most vital systems while getting the right information out to the people who need it?)
- ☐ Advice on how e-business can help small businesses grow.

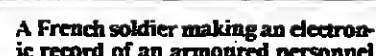


e-business

IBM



**FROM LAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON**



Greeks are bemused, and not a little disturbed, by this dramatic reminder of their proximity to the Balkan crisis. Salonika is as much a Balkan as a European city these days, in the wake of the huge influx of Serbs, Russians and Albanians over the past five years.



**Berlin:** About 1,100 soldiers took over the Reichstag parliament building to check the acoustics. Officials renovating the neo-Renaissance palace in time for the Government's return to Berlin recruited the troops to check the sound system. When a new parliament building in Bonn opened in 1992, acoustic problems forced politicians to abandon the building for ten months. (AP)

[illegible]

150 من 140



Chair girdle  
bottle with  
£2bn re

Witnesses said that LaGrand expressed remorse to the family of a bank manager whom he and his brother Walter murdered and the clerk they stabbed in 1982. Walter LaGrand, 37, is to be executed next Wednesday. (Reuters)

[illegible]







# Clinton women go on TV to reveal the depth of their love and hatred



Broadbent during interview: "Clinton was vicious, awful"

ONE woman says that President Clinton struggles to control his sexual urges but she still feels warmth towards him. The other claims he raped her and says her hatred for him is overwhelming.

Monica Lewinsky and Juanita Broadbent, women from two different generations united by their stories about the same man, were emotional and tearful as they gave their first television interviews. Neither account is likely to jeopardise Mr Clinton's position, but both heap further huge doses of embarrassment on his head. Details of the interview Ms Lewinsky has recorded with Barbara Walters, the doyenne of American television in-

## Damian Whitworth on the tale of two sex adventures that haunt the President

terrogators, began to emerge yesterday.

According to a detailed account of the interview passed to *The Washington Post*, Ms Lewinsky, asked if Mr Clinton was comfortable with his sexuality, said: "He struggles with it. He tries to hold himself back. His behaviour is in conflict with his own background."

The former White House trainee said she wanted to apologise to Americans for the ordeal the country has been put through because

of her affair with the President. She said that the relationship had been good. "Some of it was genuine, some of it was not. But part of it was very painful."

Ms Lewinsky said she did not feel cheap and believed she had been mischaracterised as a bimbo or seductress. She was, instead, a loyal person.

Asked about the incidents when Mr Clinton was speaking on the telephone while she performed oral sex, she said the element of

danger had not appealed to her, but there had been excitement.

The content of the interview was leaked as the country was digesting the compelling interview with Mrs Broadbent, who was weeping as she recounted her alleged rape by Mr Clinton 20 years ago.

Mrs Broadbent, 55, owner of a nursing home, gave a graphic account, punctuated by sobbing, of her claims that she attempted to stop Mr Clinton forcing himself on her in an Arkansas hotel room.

She said she "pushed him away and told him 'No'. I just was very frightened. He was just a vicious, awful person". She added: "It was not consensual. My hatred for him

is overwhelming." Pressed on why she had never reported the incident to the police, Mrs Broadbent said: "I didn't think anyone would believe me in the world." She said it had been the 1970s, the accusation would have been against the state attorney-general by a woman who was married but having an affair (with her future second husband) and the alleged incident took place in her hotel room.

Mrs Broadbent said she was speaking out now because there were so many rumours swirling about the incident and "I just couldn't hold it in any longer". She did not want her grandchildren ever to ask her: "Why didn't you

tell what this man did to you?" The incident is supposed to have happened in 1978 when Mr Clinton was attorney-general in Arkansas and running for the governorship. Mrs Broadbent denied the encounter in an affidavit to the Paula Jones sexual harassment case but says now that she did so because she did not want to get involved.

Mrs Broadbent cannot remember the date of the incident. Asked why she attended a Clinton fundraiser shortly afterwards and later took an unpaid job he offered, she said: "I still felt guilty at that time, that it was my fault. By letting him come to the room, I had given him the wrong idea."

# Texas race murderer sentenced to death

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE white supremacist convicted of dragging a black man to an agonising death behind a pick-up truck was sentenced to death last night.

A jury in the small east Texas town of Jasper took less than three hours to decide that John "Bill" King should be executed by lethal injection rather than serve a life sentence that would have kept him behind bars for 40 years.

King, 24, was the first white man sentenced to die for killing a black man in Texas since the death penalty was reinstated in the mid-1970s.

He killed James Byrd, 49, by chaining him behind a pick-up truck and dragging him along a country road until he was decapitated in what appeared to have been a racist gang initiation.

The jury of 11 whites and one black, rejected the appeals of King's tearful father and decided that he had intended to kill Mr Byrd, would be a danger in the future and they could find no mitigating factors in the case.

In final arguments, prosecu-

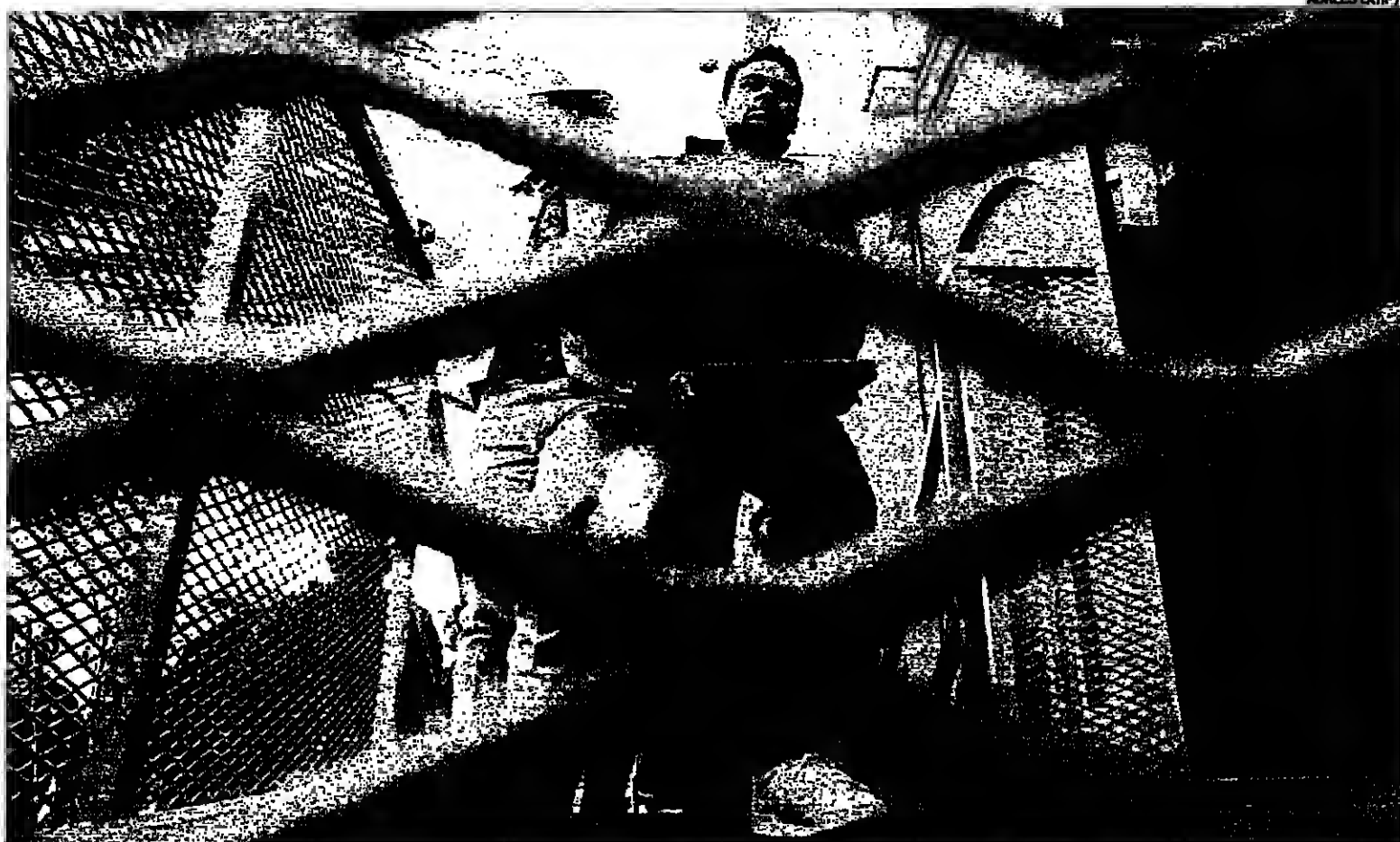
tors had argued for the death penalty, saying that King was an incorrigible racist whose hatred for blacks and others was so deep that he would murder again, even in jail.

"This man will hurt, harm and kill again. We can't allow it," said James Gray, the Jasper County District Attorney.

"By giving Bill King a life sentence, you're giving him at least 40 years to catch [and kill] a black guard... a Jewish guard... anybody who's not one of his 'bros' [brothers] or doesn't believe in his satanic-racist views," said Pat Hardy, the assistant prosecutor.

The defence said he would not be a danger if placed in a maximum security prison. "Please don't kill him," Haden "Sonny" Cribbs, the lead defence lawyer, begged the jury. "We all got to quit hating. We all got to quit being racist."

Brack Jones, the assistant defence lawyer, said it was doubtful he could survive that long in the brutal environment of prison. "Whether you vote life or death, John King is a dead man walking," he said.



John "Bill" King is led into the Jasper County courthouse yesterday for sentencing. His father, Ronald, below, had breathing difficulties at the session

Throughout the trial the defence blamed King's racist views on a bad experience he had with black inmate gangs while he was in prison between 1995 and 1997 for a burglary conviction. They said he joined a racist gang, the Confederate Knights of America, for protection.

"The penitentiary made this young man the way he is and you ought to turn him back to the penitentiary and let them handle it," Mr Jones said.

On Wednesday King's elderly and ailing father, Ronald

King, tearfully pleaded for the jury to spare his son's life. Afterwards, members of the Byrd family hugged and wept with him.

Mr Jones said a death sentence would kill King's father too. "Your vote [for death] could take two lives, both of them named King," he said.

"I'm sure everybody's heart goes out to Ronald King. He testified and it was very sad. Everybody's heart also goes out to the victim's elderly father [James Byrd Sr]."

Two alleged accomplices in

Byrd's death — Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 24 — also are charged with murder and will be tried later. Tyson in solitary: Mike Tyson, back in jail for attacking two motorists, has been given 25 days in solitary confinement after a furious outburst in which he hurled a television set at prison guards (Damian Whitworth writes). The former world heavyweight boxing champion will spend 23 days in isolation at the Montgomery County Detention Centre in Maryland.



## DNA puts names to fallen US soldiers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon has decided that the custom of honouring America's war dead by burying an unidentified victim in a tomb for unknown warriors is at an end, thanks to DNA.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, has agreed that no new remains will be placed in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington. Last May saw the removal of an "unknown" from the tomb who was then identified by a DNA test as Michael Blasie, an air force fighter pilot shot down near the village of An Loc in Vietnam. The test had not been available when he was interred in the tomb in 1984, 12 years after his death. He has since been reburied with full military honours.

With the Pentagon now taking DNA samples from everyone who joins the armed forces, there is no likelihood of future wars producing bodies that cannot be identified. There is still the problem of how to honour a victim from Vietnam at Arlington alongside unknowns from the First and Second World Wars and Korea. More than 2,000 Americans are listed as missing from Vietnam.

A relatives' organisation has proposed a plaque near the Tomb of the Unknowns that declares simply: "In honour of those still missing, this crypt remains forever empty."

# if you won £1 million on the lottery how much would you give to charity?

From the people who introduced the '24 hour society' to the UK now comes the iSociety: one of the largest ever independent national surveys into what people want out of life today. How would you answer our question?

a. nothing b. up to £1,000 c. up to £10,000  
d. up to £100,000 e. more than £100,000

Give your answer by calling free on 0800 138 8110

before 1pm today. We will not ask your name, all answers are completely confidential and will not be retained. The results of our survey will be published in tomorrow's Times along with more questions and information. Thank you for taking part.

Yesterday we asked "are men as capable of bringing up children as women?"

75% of respondents thought men were as capable of bringing up children as women.

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## THOMAS COOK FLIGHT DEALS FLY AWAY FOR THE MILLENNIUM



DESTINATION	DEPARTING FROM LONDON	DEPARTING NOVEMBER 20TH	DEPARTING NOVEMBER 21ST
US & Canada	Boston	£268	£268
	New York	£268	£268
	Philadelphia	£268	£268
	Toronto	£298	£298
	San Francisco	£311	£311
	Seattle	£311	£311
Australia & New Zealand	Vancouver	£372	£370
	Perth	£475	£1341
	Melbourne	£610	£1053
	Sydney	£612	£1055
Asia	Auckland	£667	£871
	Dubai	£355	£378
	Delhi	£439	£439
	Bombay	£439	£439
	Singapore	£394	£566
South Africa	Hong Kong	£464	£582
	Johannesburg	£384	£384
	Cape Town	£557	£606

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# North Korean is freed after 41 years in solitary

FROM JENNIFER VALE IN SEOUL

LOOKING gaunt but healthy, the man believed to be the world's longest-serving political prisoner shuffled out of a South Korean jail yesterday after 41 years in solitary confinement.

"I'm very happy to see the light of the world after over 40 years in jail," said Woo Yong Gak, 71, a convicted North Korean spy, as he bowed in thanks to his supporters gathered outside the gates of Taejeon prison south of Seoul.

Mr Woo was one of 17 elderly convicted spies released yesterday in a sweeping amnesty to mark President Kim Dae Jung's first year in office. They were jailed for between 29 and 41 years on charges of spying for North Korea, having been passed over in previous amnesties as they refused to sign an oath to obey South Korea's National Security Law, which forbids even the slightest ex-

pression of communist sympathies. Though their freedom has been won, where they will spend it depends partly on the fate of a proposal that they be swapped for 300 South Korean prisoners of war held in North Korean labour camps.

This week Seoul indicated that the 17 could be sent back to North Korea. President Kim vowed to repatriate those willing to go if Pyongyang agreed to return the POWs. The North has always denied the existence of POWs on its soil, but in recent months a handful escaped to the South. Mr Woo, born in North Korea, did not rule out returning home. He hoped the two Koreas resolved the issue in a humanitarian way.

While amnesties are traditional on major public occasions in Korea, this one has special resonance. Responding to intense criticism from

human rights groups, such as Amnesty International, President Kim, himself a former dissident and prisoner of conscience, waived the oath in the hope that it would burnish his humanitarian credentials.

Some 9,000 people benefited from the amnesty, including 1,508 prisoners who were released. More than 7,000 other offenders had their civil rights restored and criminal records erased.

Rights groups say that Mr Woo languished in solitary confinement inside a 12h square cell since he was caught leading a communist military unit into South Korean territory in 1958, five years after the Korean War.

"As I walk out of prison, I feel regret because many other prisoners remain in jail," he said.

Leading article, page 27



Woo Yong Gak speaks to reporters after leaving the prison at Taejeon yesterday

## Brutal face of Seoul shown in political prisoners' suffering

BY DAVID WATTS

WHEN Woo Yong Gak quitted prison yesterday he left behind a world of almost complete isolation in a 12h square cell, where he was denied human contact and information of any sort.

The South Korean Government did everything it could to make him — and hundreds of others — recent their communist beliefs. From the 1950s to the 1970s that meant conditions of unimaginable harshness. Despite the bitter winters the cramped cells were not heated and prisoners were subjected to beatings.

Photographs smuggled out in the 1970s showed bruised inmates beaten to a pulp if they did not renounce their beliefs. Thousands, like Mr Woo, never did, and many of them died unknown even to human rights groups. One of Mr Woo's first acts was to thank Amnesty International for bringing the fate of political prisoners to outside attention.

"There was virtually no human contact at all," said an Amnesty researcher. "Since they came from the

North there would be no family to visit them. There might be a religious figure or a human rights worker allowed in later, but for many the only contact might be a few words with a guard as they went for exercise."

In the 1990s conditions are believed to have improved but medical care remained poor. The 16 other men freed from political sentences of between 29 and 41 years served well beyond a Korean life term which is normally 16 to 18 years. Mr Woo's health has held, apart from a stroke which left him with a minor disability.

Despite having a President who was held under the same draconian law, South Koreans can still be arrested for giving aid and comfort to North Korea. Last year 400 such arrests were made.

Mr Woo hopes to go back to see his wife and son in North Korea. But there is little likelihood that they are still alive. The relatives of anyone who is politically suspect or an inconvenience are usually executed.

## Marcos family will pay out \$150m to 10,000 victims

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

AFTER a 13-year legal battle, the family of the late dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, agreed yesterday to pay \$150 million (£100 million) in damages to 10,000 victims of human rights abuses.

The victims' lawyers made simultaneous announcements in Manila and Los Angeles on the preliminary agreement. US District Judge Manuel Real in Los Angeles gave his approval on Wednesday. Robert Swift, the plaintiffs' lawyer, said.

A final hearing is set for April 14 in Hawaii. The suit

was filed in 1986 in Hawaii on behalf of nearly 10,000 Filipinos against Marcos, who fled to exile in Honolulu after his overthrow. "A despot who abuses his people will finally pay," said the statement issued by Mr Swift and Rod Domingo, the victims' Filipino counsel.

The agreement will be approved by the Philippine Government, which accuses Marcos of looting the country and had laid claim to a \$500 million deposit belonging to the Marcos family found in Swiss banks.

Mr Domingo said that the agreement was signed for the Marcos family by Imelda Marcos and her son, Ferdinand Jr, who is a provincial Governor, and by Mr Swift on behalf of the victims.

The Marcos family declined to comment. A spokesman for Marcos's son said: "All statements will come from the office of President Estrada." A Hawaii court had awarded the human rights victims in 1995 damages totalling \$1.9 billion against the Marcoses. They agreed to a compromise amount of \$150 million as it would take years to collect the full amount from the Marcoses, Mr Domingo said. Each victim could get \$16,000.



Marcos: "despot who abused his people"

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Starting again: growing weary of my son's little joke about "Who is that lady who sometimes comes in to say goodnight to me?" I started working from home. At this point things began to go wrong. My suit looked absurd on the school run

## 'I haven't a clue what to wear now I work at home'

There was a time when clothes, in the days before I started to write about them, never gave me a moment's anxiety. In those days I had a job that took me to an office five days a week and I knew exactly what to wear. For weekdays I had a suit by Marella, in a beautiful black and white Donegal tweed. For weekends I had a pair of D&G hipster jeans and a series of leather jackets and little T-shirts. I never had to think for more than 30 seconds about what I should be wearing.

Time passed and eventually, growing weary of my son's little joke about "Who is that lady who sometimes comes in

to say goodnight to me?" I started working from home. At this point things began to go wrong. Not only did I miss the office jokes and gossip, but I hadn't a clue what to wear. My suit looked absurd on the school run, but putting on my weekend jeans gave me the disconcerting impression that I wasn't really at work at all. Eventually, I fell back on a

sort of subfusc — a pair of black jodhpurs and an ancient Conran sweater, upgraded to Caroline Charles's black satin pants and an Amanda Wakeley sweater when I have to go out. It is a comfortable arrangement, but it does not give me the solid sense of who I am that my Donegal tweed used to bestow.

My problem is not a short-

age of clothes. If you looked in my wardrobe you might think that it was the result of a clothes-swapping session between the late Diana Vreeland and Dame Iris Murdoch — lichenous tweed skirts hanging next to arched satin em-broidered Chinese jackets; smelly corduroy breeches clasped in the arms of a scarlet suede jacket by Jasper

Conran. When I search through the rails, it seems to me that it might be best to start again with some grow-up, clean-lined clothes with just enough edge to make them interesting.

So I rang the personal shopping managers of three big London stores. I wanted a head-to-toe wardrobe to take me from now into the summer. It had to be crisp enough for work, but relaxed enough for the school run. And I didn't want to spend more than £1,000 (a figure that caused me some anxiety since I had never encountered a personal shopper before and imagined them to be a fearfully grand breed).

As I waited for Gabriella Di Nora in Selfridges' personal shopping department, my confidence was not increased by the sight of a framed Christmas card ("With love from Diana") from the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Good grief. Was Gabriella really going to be able to bend her mind to my rather more modest needs? A moment later she appeared. Very poised in black trousers and mushroom jacket, assuring me earnestly that she will work to any budget, however small. Gabriella is very nice and charmingly unpretentious about fashion. Her background is in languages — she is half-Italian, one of four sisters, all more interested in clothes than she was. Her family, she says, thinks it a hoot that she has ended up advising people on clothes.

Our first task was to fill in a form with my preferences of style and colour. Then she took a Polaroid for her records and set off to trawl the shop floor for what I had decided I needed most — a versatile coat, like a pea jacket, something that would do for town or country; and a pair of flat boots.

I was left behind with a café of excellent coffee, a plate of fancy biscuits and a heap of glossy magazines, through which I flicked guiltily, not quite able to get used to the idea of shopping by proxy.

Ten minutes later she re-

appeared with a pile of boxes and an armful of coats, and we moved to the dressing room, soothingly decorated in mag-

net and blond wood, with bottled water, tissues and a teddy bear pin cushion. It was a tricky time of year — the fag end of the winter sale shading into the beginning of the summer stock, but one of the pairs of boots was a hit: a Robert Clergerie design in glossy black calf, reduced from an eye-watering £335 to £142.

The coats were more diffi-

cult. There were masses of them, by Nicole Farhi, John Rocha, Kenzo et al. in a dizzying variety of styles and colours, including one by Guy Laroche in a sort of brilliant green Astroturf, but nothing that quite corresponded to what I had in mind. A soft green and black tweed redingote by Strenesse was so love-

ly, and so much reduced, that I nearly bought it anyway, but then I remembered my resolution not to impulse-buy, and, with Gabriella's blessing, refrained. Clutching my boots — the foundation, I hoped, of a brilliant new look — I set off for Harvey Nichols.

Harvey Nichols' personal shopping department is very highly evolved indeed — a sort of Vatican City within the main shop's Rome. Here the manager, Christina Abbott — bright, young and enthusiastic — counsels not just individual clients, but film and television companies and corporate clients who like to send their female staff along for a fashion show while the men fire paintballs at each other on the Sus-

sex Downs. There is, too, a kind of "crèche", where the metropolitan girl can dump her boyfriend on a comfortable sofa in front of a telly while she debates the merits of Tocca versus Chloé. As with Selfridges, the whole store, not just the fashion departments, is covered, and clients' preferences and purchases are kept on file.

My details taken, and fortified with coffee and biscuits, I moved to the large, comfortable dressing room to see what Christina had pre-selected for me. Everything looked lovely — elegant but relaxed, just as I had hoped. But there was a fascinating gap between what looked good on the rail and what worked on the body. I have always thought of Donna Karan as the queen of the working wardrobe, so it was a shock to try on her long, unlined flared crepe skirt, £420, and cashmere cardigan, £370, and find that I looked a mess — nothing hanging quite right, and a knicker line of horrid visibility.

Things were better at the other end of the rail — sharply tailored pants and a long, navy cotton skirt by Michael Kors were perfect, and so was the coat, £410, by Cheilken and Capone, in navy twill, lined in a beautiful gold-shot blue that matched a cashmere vest and cardigan by Cashmere Studio.

At this point, I should have holed up for Christina, who had tactfully disappeared while I tried on. Individually, I loved all these pieces, but I couldn't make the skirt and pants work with the coat. For a second time that day, I hadn't managed to equip myself with the ideal working-from-home wardrobe.

Determined to make one final effort, I arrived at Dickens & Jones to meet the personal shopping suite manager, Carolyn Robertson. Dickens & Jones is not the first place I would think of to shop for clothes. Whenever I visit I find it confusing and slightly stuffy. Carolyn, however, is the reverse of stuffy. She is tall and slender, with a bone-shattering handshake — rather like the remote and lovely senior prefect on whom one had a crush in the third form. Laid out with military precision in a large, white-painted dressing room, with two mirrors

and a flirty screen to get undressed behind, was an astonishing collection — trousers, shoes, bags, even a pair of Calvin Klein sunglasses.

The effect was wonderfully enticing — like a dressing-up box — and, as with a dressing-up box, one seemed to have permission to become, if only temporarily, someone else: cool and sophisticated in Armani's navy canvas drawstring trousers, £105, and Ralph Lauren's flag-embroidered denim jacket, £25, or sharp and sexy in Michael Kors's navy stretch manor pants, with a white T-shirt and white kid Pied à Terre mules, £79.

I liked it all so much that it was hard to discard anything, but eventually I narrowed it down to the Kors pants, his cleverly casual navy cotton "apron" dress, £160, the white mules and a petal-pink pashmina, £185. I could have added Whistles' stunning silky dark-blue raincoat, which packs away to nothing in its own little duffel bag, £115, a pale-blue silk and cashmere twinset from Cashmere by Design, and a black nylon body bag with its own metal-backed notebook, £21, without breaking my budget. It was exactly what I'd wanted. But then — disaster. The Kors pants were too big. Had they the smaller size in stock? They had not. "Oh no," I wailed, my capsule wardrobe about to dissolve. "But," said Carolyn, "we do alterations. Free of charge."

So the question is, would I repeat this exercise for real in my own time? Admitting that she needs help with her wardrobe is a big deal for a girl — rather like a chap agreeing that he could do with a few remedial driving lessons. I pride myself on my ability to mix chainstore and designer into a look that is unmistakably my own. But none of the consultants I saw tried to impose her idea of style on me. All were responsive to my budget and needs, and each came up with at least one thing I might not have found for myself. As with dailies and vicars, I think it is definitely worth shopping around for a clothes consultant, not just settling for the first person you see, or the one who happens to come with the store where you usually shop.

I don't suppose I'll ever be the sort of person who orders an entire season's wardrobe in a single, marathon session. But if I ever again feel myself slipping into a sartorial Slough of Despond, I shall get straight on the phone to Carolyn, the beautiful head prefect of Dickens & Jones's personal shopping service.

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## The story of the story of the film

If you go out tonight to watch *You're Not a Girl, Not Yet a Man*, and if you peer carefully at the credits, you'll notice that by the time you leave the cinema all the restaurants have shut and the babysitter's bill has risen by £15.

This is because movie credits acknowledging everyone involved in the simplest project have grown far too long — a conclusion I reached after having a conversation with my friend William in New York last week, and which I fleshed out during my British Airways flight home as (dressed in Brooks Bros shirt, Paul Smith jacket) I sipped a Bell's whisky served by the cabin stewardess, Julie.

At one time credits were so brief that the two stars of a movie might seek legal arbitration over whose name should appear first. But now Hollywood is having to settle disputes between the most incidental people on the set (first goer: "I fetched more coffees." Second goer: "Yeah, but you always skipped on the Danishes, and my billing should reflect that").

The purpose of lengthy credits must be that they enable directors to judge the success of their latest movie with test audiences. If the audience heads for the exits as soon as the words "The End" come on screen, they thought the film stank. If they stay for the names of the supporting actors, they liked it. If they're still in their seats when it says "Miss Paltrow's nail varnish supplied by . . .", they want to invest in your next movie. But how have we let ourselves become used as emotional barometers for Hollywood producers?

Mary Pickford — in the first incident of a dispute over screen billing reaching a courtroom — petitioned to have her name put on the screen after years of appearing simply as "Little Mary". The opening credits of *Casablanca* acknowledged the actors, the producer, the director, a dialogue director, a make-up artist, orchestral arrangements: in just over a minute it's all over. It finishes with just "The End".

Then things started getting out of hand. Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* credited nearly 800 different people, organisations and places — including "The Island And People Of Kauai", Kauai being the Hawaiian island where the film was partly shot, but where the local lawyers weren't savvy enough in the ways of Hollywood to insist that — as a mark of respect for the natural beauty of this remote island — a full chemical breakdown of Kauai's soil structure also be included in the film's closing acknowledgements.

Those moviegoers who felt unable to leave their seats at the end of *Titanic* as they tried to solve the mystery that had transfixed all who saw the movie — ie, had Kate Winslet put on weight or not? — could chew over this teasing conundrum through seven minutes of screen credits: these listed hundreds of people, including an etiquette coach, the Mexican Minister of



**MAN ON THE SIDE**  
JOE JOSEPH

Tourism, the London jeweller Asprey, a children's guardian, a drapes master, a Slovakian three-year-old boy, a first-class husband, and steward No. 4 (no, not him! You're thinking of steward No. 3. There's no point if you are not going to concentrate).

Directors have grown smart enough to realise that audiences can stomach only so much, and no longer want to wait to see who sang a particular song on the soundtrack if it means having also to scroll through all 52 clauses and sub-clauses of that band's recording contract with Sony. That's why, in Peter and Bobby Farrelly's film *There's Something About Mary*, the credits are interleaved with outtakes. Jackie Chan, who has just brought out his latest film, *Rush Hour*, keeps us seated by showing the credits against a backdrop of stunts that went amusingly wrong. For *A Bug's Life*, Disney created special animated outtakes to lighten the credits.

But audiences have become too sophisticated even for this. We need more powerful incentives to keep us glued than clips from the cutting-room floor. In *Shakespeare in Love*, the credits should include information such as Gwyneth Paltrow's home phone number, or details of any film-set romances/tiffs. Five minutes into the credits of *Titanic* we deserved a line telling us, "No, it's just the camera that makes her look plump".

And why limit it to films? Government statements could carry similar tithes to keep us glued ("Yes, Jack Straw's new policy is the one he scoffed at when the Tories put it forward in 1996").

Before I go could I just thank the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for its co-operation in providing production facilities for this article. To Klix Vending Services for coffee. There was no best boy. The article was printed in Times Romanvision.

Sadly, premature babies often die, as Richard Miles discovered when he lost his son.

## We do not know what to say as we stand beside his tiny grave

WHEN your child dies it is natural to want to blame someone. The feelings of the parents whose prematurely born babies died during trials of a new type of ventilator at a North Staffordshire hospital are quite understandable.

The harsh truth, however, is that a significant number of premature babies do die despite the best efforts of the medical staff. I know because it happened to us. Our son, Oliver, died last November after enduring this world three-and-a-half months too early.

Before the huge advances of medical technology in the 20th century, women routinely lost their children, many prematurely. Even today, five in 100 babies are born before gestation is complete. Most survive but many do not.

Doctors still lack an adequate explanation for premature births. Roughly half of such cases can be attributed to three main causes: alcoholism or drug addiction of the mother, or the conception of twins.

In our case, none of these conditions applied. Four months after Oliver's birth, the doctors have been unable to give us a reason for his premature arrival. My wife, Jacqui, had developed an infection in her womb, and when that happens the body's natural defence system urges the expulsion of the unborn child.

It was every expectant parent's worst nightmare. I was in the office when the panicked phone call came through. Jacqui's waters had broken outside Great Portland Street Tube station in London. The due date was not until late February.

Luckily, Jacqui was with a friend, who took her by taxi to University College Hospital, Central London. The doctors confirmed that her waters had broken, but said that labour had not yet begun. If she could just hold off for even 12 hours, it would give the baby a greater chance of survival.

Jacqui struggled valiantly for almost 48 hours, allowing the doctors to give her two doses of steroids to aid the development of the child's lungs. The odds were not good: 24 weeks was the "cusp of viability", said the consultant. At this point of development, only four in ten babies survive the delivery.

By late afternoon of the second day, Jacqui had entered labour. Unfortunately, her temperature rocketed and she contracted a raging fever. We had to open the windows and brandish electric fans to bring her temperature down to a reasonable level. In the corridor, the midwife told me the complications meant that the baby would not live.

Nevertheless, my wife had to go through the labour and at 9.26pm on November 1 — rather spookily, my own birthday and within 30 minutes of the time of my delivery — Oliver was born. Although he was grey, limp, voiceless and weighed less than a bag of sugar, the paediatricians succeeded in reviv-

ing our son. He was transferred to intensive care.

There, under ultraviolet lights and accompanied by the airline "ping" of the computers, I had the first real opportunity to see my son. At 24 weeks a baby's skin is not fully formed, so the nurses had stretched a plastic tent over Oliver to retain the moisture. But beneath the plastic was a perfectly formed, divine-looking little boy.

Then began the rollercoaster ride of our lives: would Oliver's heart and lungs be strong enough to keep him alive? We forced ourselves to view each successive hour as a bonus — after all, no one had expected him to make it through the delivery — while deep down we were willing him, praying for him to survive this ordeal so that he might stay with us.

A great many children born so prematurely die within 48 hours of delivery. Some do not survive the move downstairs to University College Hospital's neonatal unit, one of the best, if not the best, in the UK. Their hearts fail or, more commonly, their lungs pack up, even with the best ventilator.

Oliver survived this initial period — both his heart and lungs were strong — but tests revealed that he

had suffered acute brain damage, either during his time in the womb or during delivery. As the days passed, the nature of this damage became apparent and our joy at his survival evaporated.

Even a baby who stays in the womb for the whole nine months does not have a fully developed brain: it takes another 12 months to

assume its final form. In Oliver's case, the parts of the brain that control movement were so badly damaged that they would never recover. If he survived, he would never be able to walk, he would never do anything that normal children do, not even hold a knife and fork. He might never have spoken.

At the same time, the doctors discovered that his bowels were perforated and that he had contracted NEC (necrotising enterocolitis), a potentially fatal condition and a common killer of premature babies. In these circumstances, the doctors asked us to think carefully about whether it was right to keep Oliver alive by artificial means. In their opinion, the kindest act would be to let him go.

After much soul-searching, we decided that the doctors were right. My greatest fear was that Oliver would have a healthy mind trapped in a useless body. In any event, as the post-mortem examination would later show, our boy would almost certainly have died from the bowel condition.

We had him christened on the ward and then, on the following Sunday, almost seven days after he came into this world, the medical staff unplugged Oliver from the life-support machinery. We held him — our first real opportunity to do so without the encumbrance of the ventilator — while he died.

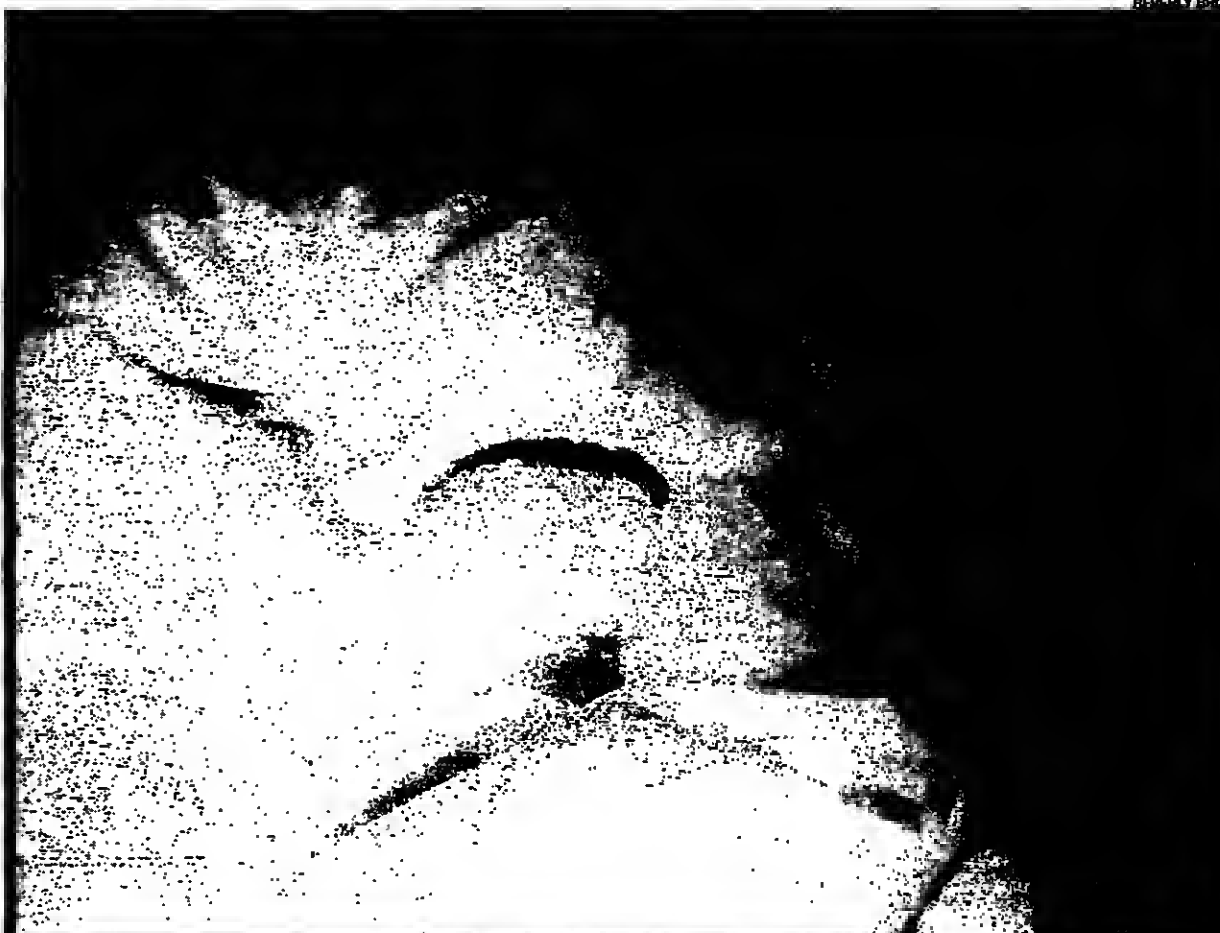
Neither Jacqui nor I recalls being asked to sign a consent form for any of Oliver's treatments, although a researcher gently asked if she might monitor his brain patterns for a study. We agreed. Frankly, we would have leapt at any

interest in hearing from fathers whose babies have died or were stillborn.

More disturbingly, much of the research carried out by neonatal units is funded from charitable donations, rather than from the Government. As doctors admit, they still do not know enough about newborn babies. The nursing crisis has also led to a shortage of intensive-care beds for babies who are born prematurely.

If things had gone to plan, Oliver would have been born about now. Instead he lies under a yew tree in a North London cemetery, surrounded by other unfortunate children. We feel guilty because we do not visit him regularly. We know of other parents who go once a week. But the truth is that we do not know what to say when we stand beside his tiny grave, and it is just too painful.

Instead, the handful of pictures we have of Oliver are proudly displayed around our flat. Some people might think we are strange, even morbid, to do so, but he was and always will be our first child and our first son. As the Ancient Romans believed: if my name is on someone's lips, I am still alive.



The loss of an infant is every expectant parent's nightmare. Doctors admit they know too little about newborn babies

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## Young, free and anti-single currency

You can be pro-European and anti-EMU — it's the third way

The first and last time that I knocked on doors and pushed leaflets through letterboxes for a political cause was in 1975. The occasion was the referendum on Europe and, as a fervently pro-European teenager, I was campaigning for Britain to stay in the Common Market. Four years later, in the 1979 election, I despised both main parties with equal vigour, so did not feel inclined to hit the streets. Since then, as a journalist, I have always felt my job was to comment on political campaigns, not join them.

So why, on Monday, will I be sharing a platform with David Owen and many others who fought for a "yes" vote in 1975, to argue for Britain to stay out of the euro? Partly because the issue is so important that I feel a duty to do something. But also because, as someone who thinks of herself as moderate, reasonably thoughtful, and pro-European, I am fed up with EMU opponents being caricatured as swivel-eyed xenophobes.



Mary Ann Sieghart

Only this week, Tony Blair mocked the "Thatcher-Portillo-Bern axis" of those who don't believe Britain should join the single currency. Ideologically, I have as little in common with those three as he has, and so do the other members of the group that we are launching. We are all pro-European; none of us is on the far Right and, apart from the odd "we" Tory, the rest of us are apolitical, centrist or centre-left. We are modern and internationalist, forward-looking and constructive about the EU. We don't care whose face is on our banknotes. But we are all intellectually very dubious about the case for EMU membership.

Initially I supported Britain's membership of the ERM. Like many pro-Europeans, I had not thought very hard about the consequences, but it looked as if we might end up with lower interest rates and lower inflation. More important, I looked at who was against membership and who was for it, and knew which club I instinctively wanted to join. Only when the fatal consequences of German unification became clear — pushing up interest rates and plunging Britain into a deep recession — did I realise how damaging such a system was destined to be.

I should, of course, have realised earlier. Indeed, I did start to have theoretical reservations soon after we joined. But it took some time for the intellectual doubts to overcome the emotional enthusiasm. If I was pro-European, how could I be anti-ERM?

This question tormented Mr Blair. He cannot reconcile his pro-European instincts with a rational scepticism about the wisdom of trying to de-convert economies together. And it explains the superficial enthusiasm of many others in the Centre and Centre-Left of politics. They don't want to be regarded as the kind of people who would object to EMU.

But it is only in politics that such a problem arises. In journalism, for instance, there are many commentators and economics editors who share my view: my colleagues Ana-

tole Kalensky and Janet Bush; Martin Wolf of the *Financial Times*; Larry Elliott of the *Guardian*; Anne McElvoy of the *Independent*. None is right-wing or anti-European. Indeed, the *Guardian* ran an editorial on Wednesday that expressed my views exactly.

Even inside politics, I find many Labour sympathisers, some in the upper reaches of Government. But this is the scepticism that dares not speak its name. It is not cool to come out against EMU unless you are from the old Left.

So, if current politicians are not allowed to speak out, the rest of us should. Our group, which includes former politicians of all parties, may appeal to people with doubts about EMU who want to feel they are in reasonable company. They may not be Tories. They may, like me, approve of many other forms of European co-operation, such as Anglo-French defence collaboration or the Schengen agreement on open borders. They don't want to be associated with those whose real wish is for Britain to leave the EU.

But they remember the ERM experience and understand the risks of an economy being subject to wholly unsuitable interest rates. They fear the creation of high unemployment in some countries, with no remedies available to national governments. They worry about lack of accountability: if our politicians mess up the economy, we can throw them out at the next election; if the European Central Bank does, there is nothing we can do.

And then there are the pressures for harmonisation in the rest of the economic sphere. We have not gone through two decades of painful but necessary reform only to be asked to "level up" our tax rates or social security costs so that other EU countries need not feel the pain. Inside the single currency, such pressure would be near-impossible to resist. Outside, there is a better chance. The Euro-11 want harmonisation, fine — as long as it's confined to them.

The group that our group wants to see is flexible, democratic, outward-looking and competitive, recognising national differences but working together when co-operation makes sense. That is the modern approach: it is the cumbersome, top-down, forced integration of EMU that is old-fashioned.

So why should Britain's adoption of the euro be inevitable, as so many in our MORI poll today believe? Mr Blair wants the momentum of inevitability to build, so that when the referendum comes, we feel that we have to bow to destiny. But the British people can easily resist this momentum.

The Prime Minister will hold a referendum only if he is confident that he can win. As long as the public show opposition, he will not risk it. This is the real exercise of people power. If you have qualms about EMU, express them. We can overcome.

maryann.sieghart@the-times.co.uk



## Fat Control-freaks

The Government's need to rig the railways will cost us all dear

Welcome to Britain's latest nationalised industry. It was once called British Rail. It is now the Strategic Rail Authority. Same difference. Tony Blair, speaking at yesterday's rail "summit" in London, tried calling it the Third Way, a people's partnership, a deeply moving on-time experience. But we knew what he was about. Introducing the SRA's new boss, Sir Alastair Morton, to a battery of ministers, civil servants, regulators, consultants, lobbyists and even a few railwaymen, he could not resist giving a glimpse of the new rail order. It was a land of lower fares, higher investment, more customer care and better punctuality. He never mentioned profit. Baroness Thatcher always held that BR was a privatisation too far. Mr Blair agrees. BR is dead: long live BR.

After a burst of post-privatisation energy, helped by the boom, Britain's new railway has hit desperate trouble. Rail management is an art as well as a science, the art of the Great Excuse. After the wrong sort of leaves and the wrong sort of snow, benighted passengers are now being offered "the wrong sort of privatisation" to excuse a declining quality of service. For once the excuse is just. The sort of privatisation invented by John Major's Government, against the advice of every expert, has been an industrial fiasco. Known to aficionados as the Robson-Blackwell plan, after the two officials who forced it through, it has been the greatest failure of the privatisation era.

Administering the bureaucratised layers of prices, contracts and regulations has cost a fortune and, since trains are quasi-monopolies, whose revenue depends on the state of the economy, nobody has gone bankrupt. As a result, the final prediction has come true. Ministers have found the whole business intolerable. They have leant on the regulators, bullied the companies and, as of yesterday, indicated that they would effectively renege on the franchise contracts. Mr Prescott has already intervened in matters as diverse as holiday fares, punctuality, phone-bookings fees, staff recruitment and breakfast prices. This month the central dogma of rail privatisation, "critical separation", cracked when Railtrack entered a commercial partnership with Virgin on the West Coast main line.

Wherever old BR hands gather these days, the conversation turns to the same theme: what a glorious railway they would now be running, given the current level of subsidy, booming revenue and

freedom to plan long-term. Some of this may be rose-tinted spectacles. But everything the critics predicted about "the wrong sort of privatisation" has come true. By forcing train operators to be short-term renters — not owning trains, stations, track, anything — the Treasury privatisation plan stripped them of any long-term quality incentive. Everyone predicted that the new companies would simply cut costs, lay off staff, raise fares and "sweat the franchise". With no guarantee beyond seven years, they would be commercially negligent to do otherwise.

Likewise with Railtrack, the infrastructure firm. It was constituted to have every interest in minimising investment and none in boosting capacity. It is a private firm with shareholders. Railtrack's true customer is not the passenger, nor even 25 train firms, but the regulator who fixes its charges and thus its profit.

The new rail bosses duly did what was expected: they repainted their trains, laid off drivers, raised fares and cut corners. Service quality declined, but since trains are quasi-monopolies, whose revenue depends on the state of the economy, nobody has gone bankrupt. As a result, the final prediction has come true. Ministers have found the whole business intolerable. They have leant on the regulators, bullied the companies and, as of yesterday, indicated that they would effectively renege on the franchise contracts. Mr Prescott has already intervened in matters as diverse as holiday fares, punctuality, phone-bookings fees, staff recruitment and breakfast prices. This month the central dogma of rail privatisation, "critical separation", cracked when Railtrack entered a commercial partnership with Virgin on the West Coast main line.

Already Mr Prescott has begun to treat Railtrack as a public corpo-

ration, indeed as a government agency. He pesters it on investment. He has won for it a Treasury guarantee, so it can help him to rescue the Channel Tunnel link. More guarantees will be needed if it has to bail out the now chaotic London Underground privatisation. Yesterday the company became the effective cornerstone of Mr Prescott's "new railway architecture". The old franchises are now virtually dead. Mr Blair in his speech warned the companies not to think that "we have to wait until the franchises come to an end" to take action on performance. Mr Prescott added that Sir Alastair would be given powers to act as "an operator of last resort" if the private firms refused to do as they were told.

There is to be that old planner's standby, a railway ten-year plan. As a first step, the railway would get 800 new drivers, 500 new vehicles, a "joint hit squad" for 50 blackspots, and demands on time-tableing, ticketing and passenger information. Negotiations on new franchises will begin at once. In other words, the railway operating companies are now mere management subcontractors to Sir Alastair. Their performance and their profit depend on continuing negotiations with a government agency, with minute performance indicators ruling their every step. Such contracts are really no different from those which BR's operating divisions had with the BR board under nationalisation. They just cream off more of the surplus for private shareholders. Such is neo-nationalisation.

The Blairite euphemism for neo-nationalisation is partnership. But partnership existed under the old nationalisation. It was called an arm's length relationship with Virgin ministers and boards. Such a relationship was far more distant than that suggested by Mr Prescott

yesterday. Modern ministers do not know the meaning of arm's length. They are in the rail business up to their necks. And the rail business will have to perform or they will be taking the blame next time, not private companies.

If I was Virgin Rail or Connex or Great Western or Chiltern right now, I know what I would do. I would do exactly as I was told by ministers. Then, come franchise renewal time, I would sting them all the way to the bank. Ministers will not want neo-nationalisation to deliver worse trains than Tory privatisation did. Sir Alastair has his marching orders and they are to deliver ministers a better railway. As the City knows, Sir Alastair's railways do not come cheap. The taxpayers will pay, and through the nose. They will pay for new franchises. They will pay for new trains. They will pay for Railtrack's accelerated investment. If Mr Blair and Mr Prescott want to call summits and boast their bravado, they must show results. Speeches are cheap. Results are expensive.

Under British Rail, Britain's railways were the most cost-efficient in Europe. The per head subsidy in 1990 was £13, against £36 in France, £46 in Germany and £95 in Italy. At that time, the industry was ripe for privatisation, but if ever there was a candidate for "keeping it simple", the railway was it. Frantic for more control, the Treasury made it complicated. Faced with this disaster, the Government should be overruling Whitehall and doing what might sensibly have been done at the start of this adventure. That was to decentralise BR under a single corporation (as with BT or British Gas) or down to proper regional companies owning all their assets on long-term contracts.

Instead ministers have opted for the most centralised control of rail policy in peacetime. They have brought both strategy and responsibility for performance within the ambit of Whitehall. It is possible that they could cheat history and make the railway a success — possible, but unlikely. One thing I predict for sure: rail subsidies will creep up towards the European norm. Every Thomas wants to be a tank engine. Every minister wants to be a Fat Controller. But this time it will cost dear, very dear.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins



## Tatton corner

STROKE play on the wrong side of the wicket is the latest obsession of Christine Hamilton: her "eagerly awaited" novel will be replete with gay sex, "based on a friend". As it cannot be her manly hunk, Neil, who is it? "It will be quite obvious when it comes out," she promises.

"Gafar" makes include Harvey Proctor (a commercial shirt-seller as owner of a men's retailer) and Michael Brown, another confirmed ex-Tory MP and fellow alumnus of the No Turning Back Group.

Tatton, set to wave farewell to Martin Bell, will be agog. Tory Central Office is determined to vet candidates to avoid a "rogue" local standing — shorthand, I am told, for a step-in for Sebastian Coe. Christine has told chums she will fight Seb — unless Michael Portillo, another Hamilton chum, stands. Applications will be opened this weekend.

William Hague wants the parliamentary future of Coe — his chief of staff — sorted out soon; but, I learn, the old athlete's insistence on living in Surrey rather than Tatton has gone down like a stale chip butty.

WHILE Donatella Versace asks Boy George to provide the funky sounds at her fashion show, a newcomer to the rag trade has relied on ladies of the Corston Women's Institute. As models stumbled down the catwalk at London Fashion Week (below), Russell Sage played Jerusalem.



sung by his local WI. "We like to get stuck into all sorts of things," says Liz McDowell of the WI near Bath. "It's not all just-making."

HOW not to run a party by Harvey Nichols. Guests at London Fashion Week were locked out as the joint was "not ready", so transvestites roamed Sloane Street. Then designers were left waiting for lifts while a flunky worried if "Bryan Ferry plus one" was arriving. Then the happy throng had to queue by the cheese counter for an hour to dump coats (later lost).

Huge black men clad in loin cloths gyrated, exposing that which, in recent years, they have mostly kept covered. Deadbeats boasted how they made London cool. As a tottering model said: "I've seen better organisation in Naples and had more fun in Warsaw."

SHIRLEY MACLAINE has a new chum: Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom she chatted at the Kremlin's gala opening of The Barber of Seville. The slinky lady attracted Yegor Gerasimov, who faces a less romantic prospect — Robin Cook when he pops over to Moscow next



month. The Foreign Secretary will bear gifts: eight specially bound volumes of Fushkin's notebooks, prepared by the Prince of Wales.

ETON is encouraging its pupils to become rock stars — as long as they do not make too much noise. "Bands can make as much noise as they like without disturbing anyone," says Ralph Allwood, the school's director of music, commenting on its new rock studio and drum room. "But we don't want the boys to damage their hearing by playing too loud, so the studio is equipped with a monitor which cuts out if the decibels go stratospheric." Bad luck Prince William.

PARANOID on the sad game show circuit. After my friend Matthew Parris showed that Vanessa and Countdown are fired (question: so why are they still so bad?) other programmes are running scared of our "outing" specialists. He has been told that he is no longer required by Channel 4's If I Ruled the World. Say producers: "We just, er, double booked and, um, wanted a woman."

JASPER GERARD

## 'Nonsense can be poetry — poetry is what survives the crying, even if only one person thinks it poetic'

What is poetry, pray? Well, as the schoolboy wrote, poetry is the stuff that poets write. And as Sterne put it in *Tristram Shandy*, "Sir, what is poetry?" "Why, Sir, it is much easier to say what it is not. We all know what light is; but it is not easy to tell what it is." The *Times Literary Supplement* is revisiting this old enigma of the definition of poetry. A correspondent from the poetical place name of Jawa Barat, Indonesia, has written asserting that of the 13 objects published in the *TLS* as "poems" since he became a subscriber, in his opinion five qualify as poems, five do not, and three are borderline.

He asserts: "One prime qualification of a poem has to be, doesn't it, that it makes some sense?" And as an example of what he counts as poetry, he cites the magical line, "The first time ever I saw your face I thought the

sun rose in your eyes." In spite of diligent search, I have been unable to locate his spell. Poetry is Protean. Like Proteus, the Old Man of the Sea, it comes in all shapes and sizes. One man's metre is another man's Post-Modernism. There is colour poetry which paints for the inward eye: "Now sleeps the crimson petal, now the white..." Then there is the poetry of music without meaning, as with much of Swinburne. "Pale beyond porch and portal, / Crown'd with calm leaves she stands..." Distinguish between "porch" and "portal", writing on only one side of the paper at a time, and explain what difference it would make if she were crowned with agitated leaves.

Poets come metaphysical and intellectual, like Donne and Pope. Pope attacked the nonsense of "inferior" poets in the *Dunciad*. And poets such as

Keats and Tennyson come romantic and musical, loved more for the beauty of their language than the depth of their thought. But to say that a poem must make some sense is to ignore the peculiarly English genre of nonsense poetry. In Lewis Carroll's logical nonsense in such poems as *Jabberwocky*, and in Edward Lear's *Yonghy-Bonghy-Bô* and *The Poole Who Has No Toes*, sadness lies just below the surface of the nonsense. The genre was practised by those who were not just professional nonsense writers.

Dr Johnson, with skittishness unexpected by those who think of him only as the Great Purposist of Literature, wrote in: "I put my hat upon my head / And walk'd

Philip Howard



into the Strand, / And there I met another man / Whose hat was in his hand." Ezra Pound's translation of a fragment of Greek love poetry: "Spring... Too long... Gongula" (that's it) leaves something to the imagination. T.S. Eliot: "O the moon shines bright on Mrs Port- / ter! And on her daughter! They wash their feet in soda water..." and W.H. Auden: "England our cow! Once was a lady — is she now?", did it. But their enigmatic "nonsense" is as poetic as Ecclesiastes. "O'er the silver cord be foisted, or the golden bowl be broken."

James Joyce is (in part) a poet of nonsense. "Under her braids mid piddle med puddle she

nirnygoes nannnygoes nancing by." Young girl with an umbrella tripping along a wet road? The Liffey (undad) at Dublin rippling down to the sea? These and several other ambiguities characterise his many layered work.

In a brilliant lecture on Tuesday, Pat Easterling, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, was wondering why we had taken on the genre of ancient tragedy, but abandoned its companion of satyr drama. Perhaps the nonsense of poetic fools, such as the tragic clown in Lear, is an echo down the millennia of those grotesque old dramas, heightening the tragedy by juxtaposing absurdity.

Some nonsense has always been poetry. Perhaps the increasing cult of the absurd can be put down to our existential angst and loss of sense of man's purpose in the Universe. There is an alarm-

ing distrust of the rational, ie, in the popularity of batty superstitions to do with food, health and politics. Note the sublime nonsense of e.e. cummings, Monty Python, Jacques Tati and Ionesco. Remember how Beaumarchais caught the paradox of life in *The Barber of Seville*: "Je me presse de rire de tout, de peur d'être obligé d'en pleurer." I make myself laugh at everything for fear of having to cry about it. Compare that other French nonsense ruse: "One must laugh before one is happy, for fear of dying without ever having laughed."

Nonsense can be poetry. "When I was but thirteen or so / I went into a Golden Land / Chimbrazo Cotopaxi / Took me by the hand..." But it also behaves us to cry "nonsense" when we see it. Poetry is what survives the crying, even if only one person thinks it poetic.





## RACE IN THE CLASSROOM

The right way to advance tolerance after Lawrence

Legacies can enrich, but they can also divide. Those who conducted the inquiry into Stephen Lawrence's murder hope that from the tragedy of his death might spring a determination to tackle the evils that attended it. It is to be hoped, as we argued yesterday, that the Macpherson report's publication will accelerate the necessary reform of the police service to bring its operations into line with the best modern practice. But, reform of the police aside, it is deeply questionable whether other changes that are proposed will contribute to social harmony. It has been widely noted that the report's proposals for the criminal justice system are problematic. But also worrying are its suggested reforms of the education system. Conceived in hope, they could foment further division.

The inquiry team was clearly shocked by the violent racism of those suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence. The report regrets that "society allows such people to become or to be as they are". Its authors concede that "how society rids itself of such attitudes is not something we can prescribe, except to stress the need for education and example at the youngest age, and an overall attitude of zero tolerance of racism within our society". But their final recommendations are prescriptive and specific.

These include amending the national curriculum "in order better to reflect the needs of a diverse society", suggesting that schools record all "racist incidents", calling for the annual publication of the number of such incidents on a school-by-school basis and publishing the number of pupils "excluded" from every school each year, along with their "self-defined ethnic identity". These suggestions, taken together, form an invitation to Balkanise Britain's schools. They threaten to undermine, rather than entrench, the progress which has been made towards inclusiveness and toleration in the nation's classrooms.

Few professionals have worked harder than teachers to promote a healthy spirit of mutual respect in society. But wise teachers recognise that harmony is best promoted by emphasising the value of each individual and stressing that all surface differences are irrelevant in forming judgments about others. Those who bully people for reason of race, disability or any other differentiating characteristic should be punished for their failure to respect individuals, rather than categories. A colour-blindness which teaches children to think beyond all stereotypes is a more liberal and constructive response than the divisive labelling which the report points towards. It was just such an approach, which placed tolerance at the centre, which marked the teaching of another victim of violence — the inspirational headmaster Philip Lawrence.

Reform of the national curriculum to reflect the sensitivities of any lobby, however well-meaning, distorts the purpose of this educational benchmark. Children of every background benefit most from a calm concentration on acquiring basic life skills rather than an agitated heightening of awareness which can have negative consequences. Already, radical activists are pressing for curricular reforms which recall those in America which sparked "culture wars".

Schools certainly will not benefit by being set against each other in a racism league table. Teachers already face difficulties in the maintenance of discipline. Published comparisons of the sort argued for in the report could incline some teachers to be especially lenient towards disruptive pupils from ethnic minorities. That would do no service to pupils, from every background, who wish to pursue their studies in a safe environment. David Blunkett, an Education Secretary possessed of admirable common sense, should thank the inquiry for its work, and then allow good teachers to get on with theirs.

## THE WORLD OF WOO

Imagine 1,500 days of solitude

In a learned opinion delivered in 1928, the American judge Louis D. Brandeis spoke of "the right to be alone — the most comprehensive of rights, and the right most valued by civilised men". Those who are reading these lines standing on a packed bus will readily assent. But to be alone, really alone, for 41 years, confined without normal conversation, or sight of family and friends, or news of what is going on in the world, is a different matter. It is the sleep of Rip Van Winkle, except that it is not sleep. That has been the world of Woo Yong Gak, the 70-year-old Korean who yesterday stood for the first time since 1958 on liberty's peopled thoroughfares.

He bowed to the crowd, and said: "I'm very happy to see the light." Irony was not intended; light, in a cell 12 feet by 12, must be a thing of dreams. But this old North Korean soldier, captured and convicted of espionage, was held all this time, not just in prison but in solitary confinement, because he refused to "see the light" as defined by South Korean authority and renounce his communist beliefs. Nor would he sign the lesser pledge, required by the Government of the former political prisoner, President Kim Dae Jung, affirming that he would obey South Korean law. For him and 16 other long-term prisoners, that requirement has now been waived, as part of an amnesty for more than 1,500 prisoners to mark President Kim's first year in office and the 80th anniversary of the Korean uprising against Japanese occupation.

The young soldier is now old; his speech impaired and his smile frozen after a stroke. But his memory holds: of being held in a freezing chamber underground; of electric shocks; of silence, years of silence; and of the ultimate torture, total

ignorance of the fate of his wife and son in North Korea, about whom he still knows nothing, with whom he hopes to be reunited but who — for his "crime" of allowing himself to be captured — may, tragically, have been executed years ago.

Oscar Wilde tried to imagine such a life. All that we know who be in gaol Is that the wall is strong; And that each day is like a year; A year whose days are long.

But when the days have stretched to nearly 15,000, time itself must have a stop, and instincts falter. Human beings are social animals whose solitary confinement deprives of a precious essence of humanity. Even communal confinement wears prisoners down. It is said that in wartime, POWs would latch on to new arrivals, insisting that they tell everything about their lives, their thoughts, the knowledge they had acquired; and that even the most brilliant would, after about three days, begin to repeat themselves. Solitary confinement prevents even such pooling of experience.

But time has no stop in the world beyond the walls. The Korea Mr Woo last saw was dirt-poor, its towns wasted by war, the surviving houses low and traditional. That is how much of the North still looks, with famine preying on poverty deeper even than he knew. But South Korea, despite its own economic troubles, is all skyscrapers, spaghetti junctions, giant factories and supermarkets. He will be housed at first in a special hostel to help him to adjust — to seeing what he has not even read about. An American murderer held for 68 years, the world record, was offered parole after 63 years. He refused. Mr Woo now steps, aged but without youth's street wisdom, into what, with Yeats, he must find "no country for old men". He can never be free.

## GOOD SIGNALS

The rail summit set a pattern for the network's expansion

Railways are now used more intensively than ever before. But without proper regulatory signalling, the network will be gridlocked. John Prescott wheeled out the Prime Minister yesterday to tell Britain's train companies, at a "rail summit", that they were on trial. They were failing their customers, and those operators that continued to do so would lose their franchises. Not since Gladstone's Railway Act of 1844 has the Government spelt out so clearly what it wanted the railways to do.

Tony Blair knows that transport is a potential vote-loser. Road congestion, late, crowded and dirty trains and high fares are the stuff of daily complaint and occasional fury. The Deputy Prime Minister has been increasingly frustrated that exhortation has had little effect on performance. But his proposed remedy, the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), has fallen foul of another area of congestion, the crowded legislative timetable.

Until the SRA is in place, the Government will have to use existing regulators and levers to sort out the congestion on Britain's fast expanding network. The SRA will have teeth: the welcome appointment of Sir Alastair Morton as its head already gives it credibility. If the legislation on the House of Lords can be cleared in time, it may yet be set up this year. Already it has a

clear agenda, which existing regulatory bodies have begun to implement.

Market competition has been firmly established on the network. The most urgent task now is to get the many parts of the privatised system working better together. Yesterday's summit was a small step towards closer co-ordination, enabling the 25 train operators to voice their complaints, collective as well as individual, against Railtrack, which in turn had a chance to explain its priorities and justify the pace and level of investment. Where co-operation is lacking, the SRA must decide in the passengers' interests. Why, for example, should Britain's most overcrowded line, Thameslink, have to wait until 2006 before new lines are built through London under the new Channel Tunnel link project?

Another priority is to change the structure of incentives and penalties, though without new legislation that will be hard. Train companies that are investing heavily, running good services and attracting more passengers should be rewarded with long-term assurance. GNER, more than anyone, deserves to be clear that its franchise will be extended. Those that underinvest are now being told, in Mr Prescott's seaman's language, that they must "shape up or ship out".

## Five tests for UK adoption of euro

From Mr John Stevens, MEP for Thames Valley (Independent), and others

Sir, You are to be congratulated for devoting considerable space to the euro (reports and leading article, February 24; letters, February 25). This is clearly the most critical issue now facing Britain.

Matthew Parris, in his Political Sketch on the same day, rightly suggests that William Hague's Conservative Party will not survive the debate on EMU intact. The planned campaign of the Pro Euro Conservative Party in this June's European elections must mark the end of any formal attempt to unite the Conservative Party around a position of dogmatic Euroscepticism.

We would argue that your five test points on the euro are unsound. The fact that our European partners have not travelled as far as us down the road to free market liberalism in crucial areas of their economies — housing, not diminishes, the case for British entry.

Outside the euro our advantages are handicapped. Inside we can exploit them to the full. British politicians should be concerned about British jobs, not about those in France or Germany. Waiting for EMU to be "a manifest and sustained success" guarantees that we will be entering when our negotiating power is at its weakest. Investing on such a basis would not be very profitable.

Your claim to be true upholders of Anglo-Saxon economics sits ill with your aversion to independent central banking. Of course, it is in Britain's interest that monetary union should not lead to political centralisation, but that battle can only be won as a member of EMU, not from the sidelines.

Yours etc,  
JOHN STEVENS,  
BRENDAN DONNELLY,  
RICHARD BASSETT,  
The Pro Euro Conservative Party,  
40 Smith Square, SW1P 3HL,  
February 25.

From Mr Michael Faraday

Sir, If we had the referendum at once, preparation or otherwise for the euro could be made on the basis of certainty. I believe the only reason for delay is that our euro-questing Government wants to use the time and our money to con the people into believing the euro is inevitable. The referendum will then be as phoney as any dictator's plebiscite and therefore not binding on the British people.

Would Atlee and Bevin have betrayed the people like this?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL FARADAY,  
47 York Gardens, Walton on Thames,  
Surrey KT12 3EW.

From Mr C. R. Bullen

Sir, The conditions to be satisfied which you lay down in your leader are rational, sensible and laudable, but nevertheless impossible of practical fulfilment. They would require a fundamental sea change in the attitude of continental politicians which is just not going to happen. For the EU is now set, like a locomotive hurtling down a single track, on a course which will brook no deviation until it attains its goal of full political union.

The only way the UK can avoid total absorption into a federal state is to withdraw from the whole project.

Yours faithfully,  
C. R. BULLEN,  
119 Douglas Road,  
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UE.

From Mr Douglas Ellison

Sir, Tony Blair rests his case for abolishing the pound on the fact that "the euro is a reality". Having lived in a world with about 180 currencies, why is the advent of one other currency the catalyst for such a monumental decision?

It is not because the euro is a reality, but because political union leading to a single European state is a reality, that Mr Blair is compelled to raise the stakes. Despite acknowledging the constitutional step EMU entails, he deliberately obfuscates the crucial issue of do we wish to be part of this political union born through monetary union or not, in economic terms.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS ELLISON,  
52 Beaconsfield Road, SE3 7LG,  
February 24.

From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir, Your magisterial three-column leader today sums it up: "The EU's democratic deficit, wide enough already, gaps wider still under monetary union."

The British electorate has, under universal franchise since 1929, been able to dismiss its rulers. It has done so nine times since, in 18 general elections. The abolition of sterling planned for 2004 means finally and irrevocably losing control over our taxation rates and our social spending. It would be a negation of democratic freedom, since we would be ruled by those we cannot dismiss.

One size never did fit all. As in 1940-41, we must again rescue Europe from itself — peacefully this time.

Yours faithfully,  
NORRIS MCWHIRTER (Chairman),  
The Freedom Association,  
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB,  
February 24.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Lawrence recommendations to tackle police racism

From Mr D. A. Coleman

Sir, The Government's response to the Stephen Lawrence tragedy is a damaging overreaction (reports and leading article, February 25; letters, February 24). It is one thing to reform police practices. It is quite another to try to force a whole society into a different shape on the basis of one badly mishandled murder inquiry.

If, as promised, legislation against discrimination becomes even wider-ranging, then dealing with members of ethnic minority populations as ordinary fellow citizens will become more difficult. Every issue of recruitment, promotion, reward and punishment will become more troublesome when a member of any ethnic minority is involved. Fear of litigation will institutionalise special treatment. The temptation to shelter behind accusations of racism, already sporadically apparent, will become harder to resist. The management of immigration will become impossible.

Another dismal consequence will be the additional influence given to the ideological zealots of the "anti-racist" movement, whose intolerance and witch-hunting have already damaged standards in some areas of education, social work and probation work.

It would be quite perverse to increase the powers of the Commission for Racial Equality without subjecting it to rigorous external scrutiny. If that flawed institution could be reformed, or preferably replaced by other mechanisms in which we could feel more confidence, then this depressing response might have more beneficial results.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID COLEMAN,  
13 Crick Road,  
Oxford OX2 6QL,  
February 25.

From Mr Graham Lyons

Sir, You state in your leading article today that: "The proposal [in the Macpherson report] that individuals acquitted of one crime could be retried for the same offence, if new evidence is uncovered after the acquittal, is profoundly illiberal." I disagree, at least equally profoundly.

It is anything but just that either the Lawrence family or the public who support them should be faced with the present awful finality of no further

trial. The Lawrence family's five years of waiting should not be compared with the worry to be suffered by five alleged murderers facing trial. They should not benefit simply because the Lawrence family made the mistake of launching a private prosecution at a time when there was too little evidence for there to be a case to answer.

The public also has a right to be protected from the risk of five alleged murderers being at large until they are properly tried. If there were to become sufficient evidence to place before a jury, they at least would have the chance of an acquittal.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM LYONS,  
2 Pump Court,  
Temple, EC4Y 7AH,  
February 25.

From Mr R. C. Heape

Sir, It is right that, with the publication of the Macpherson report, the focus of attention should for a short time be on the Metropolitan Police.

But society as a whole should not forget that it was not institutional racism that killed Stephen Lawrence.

The perpetrators of that crime were born amongst us and the blame for their behaviour must lie with their parents and the society in which they were raised.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN HEAPE,  
Bay Farm, Avonch,  
Ross-shire IV9 8RP,  
February 24.

From Councillor George Gill,  
Chairman of the Northumbria  
Police Authority

Sir, In your leader of February 23 you state that John Stevens, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, "is not famed for radicalism himself and would not possess the authority to impose real change".

John Stevens was Chief Constable of Northumbria between 1991 and 1996. He inherited a force which had many strengths but which needed change in fundamental and far-reaching ways. He formulated and implemented those changes successfully and with breathtaking speed.

The result of his actions was to remodel the Northumbria Police Force (one of the largest outside Lon-

don, covering both rural and inner-city areas) both in terms of its operational efficiency (it is the only force to have seen recorded crime fall in each year for the past six years) and in developing a community safety strategy in the fight against crime.

There may well be senior police officers who are extremely radical, and there may well be senior police officers who possess a good deal of authority. From my own direct experience I would be surprised if there are many who surpass John Stevens on both counts.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE GILL,  
Chairman,  
Northumbria Police Authority,  
Civic Centre, Regent Street,  
Gateshead NE8 1HH,  
February 23.

Mr A. W. Carpenter,

Sir, The reason why Sir Paul Condon should depart is, in fact, given in your leader of February 23 ("Condon should stay").

You say that the Commissioner concedes that the Metropolitan Police needs sweeping and immediate reform. With his feet under the table for six years why have the problems not been dealt with?

New blood is urgently needed.

Yours,  
A. W. CARPENTER,  
114 Sandford Road,  
Chesham,  
Essex CM2 6DH,  
February 23.

From Mr Nicholas Crean

Sir, I am sure that the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police can do more good inside his organisation than outside. However, if he really does feel a "sense of shame" (report, February 23), perhaps he might at least consider surrendering his knight-hood.

This would be a very public act of contrition on behalf of his force, as well as a mark of real respect to Stephen Lawrence, his family and community.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS CREAN,  
The Island, Hursbourne Priors,  
Hampshire RG28 7RP,  
n.crean@compuserve.com  
February 25.

## Yeovil alternative

From Mrs Claire Margetts

Sir, You report that Westland technicians are reluctant to leave a wet winter in Yeovil to work in the Bahamas for three months (report, "Winter in paradise? No thanks", February 17).

I lived in the Bahamas for a year in the early Eighties and then moved to Yeovil. The temperature here may average 8C in February, but shows don't turn green with mould overnight because of the 98 per cent humidity. Yeovil may not have exotic wildlife, but neither does it have flying cockroaches — and a lurking supermarket trolley in the Yeo is considerably more benign than a reef shark.

Yours faithfully,  
CLAIRE MARGETTS,  
98 Westland Road,  
Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2AY,  
cymargetts@btinternet.co.uk  
February 17.

From Mr Brian Attewell

Sir, Having had the wonderful fortune to visit many of the islands in the Bahamas chain, usually to work but sometimes just to relax, I can certainly recommend the western Andros group.

Androsian days often start with quite magical mists which lift to reveal a beautiful series of varied islands. Glorious beaches stretch for dozens of miles while the luxuriant interiors feature amazing "blueholes" — ponds, 30 yards across or more, that tunnel their way out to sea and are an irresistible invitation to intrepid divers. Birdlife is abundant. The local people are friendly and fun. The American-run naval centre offers many familiar amenities, if missed.

Three months in Andros during our winter? Heaven, I dream of it.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN ATTEWELL,  
(High Commissioner,  
The Bahamas, 1992-96),  
86 Vineyard Hill Road, SW19 7JJ,  
February 17.

## Brit-spotting

From Mr M. D. Jarvis

Sir, I have been reading with interest about the ease with which the Englishman abroad is recognised (letters, January 29; February 6, 13, 18 and 20).

Our natural assumption of superiority, mocking self-deprecation, the feeling that we "fit in" wherever we are and, of course, our innate humility set us apart from men of other nations.

I notice, however, that your correspondents comment only on the male of the species. Are our womenfolk, perhaps, different?

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
M. D. JARVIS,  
37 St Bernard's Road, Whitwick,  
Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 5GX,  
m.jarvis@coahville.swinternet.co.uk  
February 22.

police themselves have decided to conduct.

In fairness to the police, what public service would not use such a means of limiting complaints made against it? There is a pressing need for an independent investigative authority with the power to make objective decisions over what should or should not be investigated further, quite apart from taking responsibility for the investigation itself.

From the horrifying Lawrence case to the trivial and borderline, both the general public and the force itself deserve an independent body with these powers.

Yours faithfully,  
HILARY WHITE,  
28 Palmers Road,  
Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PB,  
February 17.

in skins" for a minute longer than television has them in view.)

However, the real scandal is that, when funding for serious archaeology is at its nadir, this travesty should be supported by lottery money to the tune of £100,000 — enough to fund the living expenses of ten worthwhile postgraduate research students for three years.

Furthermore, the complacent assertion that a serious scientific purpose underlies what is no more than a *Knockout* in woad and woolly knickers, implies that the lottery grants committee consulted some archaeological authority which, worryingly, conferred its imprimatur on the overall dotiness.

I remain yours faithfully,  
IAN BLAKE,  
Blair Cottage,  
Aultgishan, Melvaig,  
Gairloch, Wester Ross IV21 2DG,  
February 23.

## Back to the trenches

From Miss Lyn Macdonald

Sir, Trenchcoat "originally designed for RAF officers in 1923" (report on Burberry's new image, February 23). Come now! Surely your fashion editor's head was in the clouds.

A moment's contemplation of the origin of the garment's name might have brought her down to earth. It was first worn some years earlier, in the trenches of the First World War.

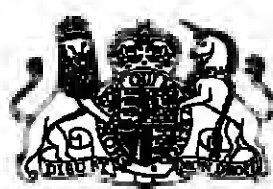
Yours faithfully,  
LYN MACDONALD,  
(Author, *To the Last Man: Spring 1918*, Viking/Penguin, 1998),  
15 St Saviour's Wharf,  
Mill Street, SE1 1BA,  
February 23.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

John M. 1.50





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 25: The Queen received His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary General.

His Excellency Dr George Conello du Puy was received in audience by the Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Malta in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mr Joseph Cole (Counselor), Mr Carmel D. Inguarner (Counselor), Mr Roderick Sant (First Secretary), Dr Elaine Cusack (First Secretary).

Mrs Iris Bonello du Puy was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Honourable Mr Justice Bodey was received by the Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The following were received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr David Lysons (Brazil), Mr Chris Ingham (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr Richard Muir (Kuwait).

Mrs Lysons, Mrs Ingham and Mrs Muir were also received by the Queen.

Mr David Hollamby was received in audience by the Queen upon his appointment as Governor of St Helena.

Mrs Hollamby was also received by the Queen.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 25: The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, today attended a Quarterly Meeting of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum followed by lunch at the museum, Greenwich, London SE10.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert and Dinner for Arts for Nature, The Alliance of Religious and Scientific Communities, at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
February 25: The Duke of Kent this morning visited the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Concert and Dinner for Arts for Nature, The Alliance of Religious and Scientific Communities, at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

**RECEPTION**  
A Cocktail Reception was held at the Lord Chancellor's Residence last night at which Mr Alan Diamond spoke.

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## Service dinner

**Corps of Royal Engineers**  
General Sir John Sibbald, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a dinner of the Corps of Royal Engineers held last night in Chatham. The Honorary Colonels of the RE Territorial Army Units and the Masters of the Masons' and Plumbers' Companies were among those present.

**Dinners**  
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan The Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Indian High Commissioner were the principal guests at a dinner of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan held last night at the Portman Hotel, Mr Manek Lal, chairman, and Dr M.N. Nandakumara, executive director, also spoke.

**Institution of Electrical Engineers**  
Mr Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws, QC, Chair of the British Council, were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Institution of Electrical Engineers held last night at Grosvenor House. Dr John Taylor, president, was in the chair. The Lord Mayor of Westminster attended. Among those present were the Chinese Ambassador, Lord Mayhew of Twyden, QC, and the Dean of Westminster.

**Society of Conservative Lawyers**  
Mr William Hague, Leader of HM Opposition, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Society of Conservative Lawyers held last night at the Carlton Club, Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, QC, president, Lord Kingsland, QC, also spoke. Among others present were:

Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP, Sir Ivan Lewis, QC, Mr Richard Armitage, QC, and Baroness Armitage of St John, Mr Edward Garnier, QC, MP, Mr Richard Drayson, MP, Mr David Lunn, MP, Mr Michael Laing, MP, Mr Leslie Price, QC, Mr Oliver Sells, QC, Mr Andrew Mitchell, QC, Mr Jonathan Evans, Mr Roger Egan, Mr Frances Boscawen and Mr Christopher Fraser, secretary.

**Royal Society**  
Sir Aaron Klug, OM, President of the Royal Society, and Lady Klug were the hosts at an evening of music and readings held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace to mark the inauguration of the society's new Kohn Centre, refurbished with a grant from the Kohn Foundation. Dr and Mrs Ralph Kohn, Dr Michelle Kohn, Miss Maxine Kohn and Mrs Hephzibah Rudofsky were welcomed by Sir Aaron and officers of the society.

**Luncheon**  
The Rev David Horton, Vicar, Joydens Wood St Barnabas (Chichester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Rosherville St Mark (same diocese). The Rev Simon Hunt, Curate, Holy Trinity (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Higher Walton All Saints (same diocese). The Rev Les Ireland, Vicar, Barstley Holy Trinity (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Levenshulme St Peter and St Andrew (same diocese).

**Appointments in the Forces**  
The Army COLONEL N P Gaskell - to be Deputy Commander HQ Catterick Garrison - Feb 15; D F Davies to be Colonel SP25 D5PS(A) - Feb 15; A M Hood - to be Colonel L5P4 - Feb 15.

**Receptions**  
The Rev Graham Archer, Priest-in-Charge, Walton, and Chaplain, Rosherville Hospital (St Edmundsbury) (Ipswich) has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Highfield Southampton (Winchester). The Rev Fiona Ballew, NSM Assistant Curate, Blyth Valley Team (St Edmundsbury) (Ipswich) has been appointed Assistant Curate, Sole Bay Team (same diocese).

**Receptions**  
The Rev Stephen Barron, Team Vicar, Southampton (Winchester) has been appointed Chaplain, Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust (Birmingham). The Rev Jonathan Boardman, Team Rector, Catford and Downham (Southwark) has been appointed sole Rural Dean of East Lewisham (same diocese).

**Receptions**  
The Rev Ian Broadhead, Vicar, South Norwood St Alban (Southwark) to be Vicar, Reigate St Mark (same diocese). Canon Brian Cole, Rector, Great and Little Dunham and Spire, and Rural Dean of Bristol and Elmham (Norwich) to be also Chairman, Diocesan Board of Education (same diocese). The Rev Richard Hawkins, Assistant Curate, Weymouth Holy Trinity (Salisbury) to be Priest-in-Charge, Holy St John the Baptist (Manchester) (same diocese).

**Receptions**  
The Rev David Horton, Vicar, Joydens Wood St Barnabas (Chichester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Rosherville St Mark (same diocese). The Rev Simon Hunt, Curate, Holy Trinity (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Higher Walton All Saints (same diocese). The Rev Les Ireland, Vicar, Barstley Holy Trinity (Manchester), to be Priest-in-Charge, Levenshulme St Peter and St Andrew (same diocese).

**Receptions**  
The Rev Lucy Ireland, NSM Curate, Barstley Holy Trinity (Manchester), to be NSM Curate, Levenshulme St Peter and St Andrew (same diocese). The Rev David Jenkins, Vicar, Blackpool St Michael and All Angels (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Broughton St John the Baptist (same diocese).

**Receptions**  
The Rev Frank Kent, Rector, Lymington w. Paddlesworth and Stamford w. Postings and Redgurd (Canterbury), to be Priest-in-Charge, Buntingford St Michael (same diocese). The Rev Ros Lane, Assistant Curate, Huddersfield St Peter and Paddock All Saints (Wakefield), to be Assistant Chaplain, HMP and YOI Doncaster (same diocese). The Rev David Sumner, Vicar, Broughton St John the Baptist (same diocese).



**DRESSED** in the national costume of Wales, Nicola Howells, a leukaemia patient, was welcomed at the gates of Kensington Palace by Paul Burrell, former butler to Diana, Princess of Wales. Nicola, ten, was among a group of children from Llandough Hospital in Penarth, South Glamorgan, who travelled to London to see David's Day and in memory of the Princess.

Mr Burrell, who helped to organise the trip, said: "I try not to come back here very often because it brings back memories but the hospital is very close to my heart." The children also visited Downing Street, met Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, and were given a guided tour of London and treated to lunch. Nicola said: "I wanted to wear the dress to lay flowers for Princess Diana."

## Church appointments

**Next Bishop of Southwell**  
The Ven George Cassidy, Archbishop of Canterbury, today announced that Canon of St Paul's (London) to be the next Bishop of Southwell in succession to the Right Rev Patrick Harris who retires in April.

**The Right Rev Manwar Rumsallah**, General Secretary, USPC, to be also Honorary Assistant Bishop (Southwark). The Rev Graham Archer, Priest-in-Charge, Walton, and Chaplain, Rosherville Hospital (St Edmundsbury) (Ipswich) has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Highfield Southampton (Winchester).

**The Rev Fiona Ballew**, NSM Assistant Curate, Blyth Valley Team (St Edmundsbury) (Ipswich) has been appointed Assistant Curate, Sole Bay Team (same diocese). The Rev Stephen Barron, Team Vicar, Southampton (Winchester) has been appointed Chaplain, Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust (Birmingham).

**The Rev Jonathan Boardman**, Team Rector, Catford and Downham (Southwark) has been appointed sole Rural Dean of East Lewisham (same diocese). The Rev Ian Broadhead, Vicar, South Norwood St Alban (Southwark) to be Vicar, Reigate St Mark (same diocese).

**Canon Brian Cole**, Rector, Great and Little Dunham and Spire, and Rural Dean of Bristol and Elmham (Norwich) to be also Chairman, Diocesan Board of Education (same diocese). The Rev Richard Hawkins, Assistant Curate, Weymouth Holy Trinity (Salisbury) to be Priest-in-Charge, Holy St John the Baptist (Manchester) (same diocese).

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## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr W.P. Axell** and **Miss A.L.R. Scott-Malden**  
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Axell, of Over Worton, Oxfordshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Scott-Malden, of Baughurst, Hampshire.

**Mr R. Baeck** and **Miss A.C. Grace**  
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Baeck, of Bromley, Kent, and Angela Christina, only daughter of Mr Albert Grace, of Chantry, Somerset, and Mrs Pauline Harde, of Bromley, Kent.

**Mr J.B. Bloomfield** and **Miss M. Devine**  
The engagement is announced between John, fourth son of Mrs Bloomfield and the late Mr John Patrick Bloomfield, of Loughlough, Essex, and Marie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Devine, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Mr M.R. Champness** and **Miss S.E. Foy**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Champness, of Chichester, and Susan, daughter of Mr Ronald Foy and of the late Mrs Foy, of London.

**Mr A.M. Clark Hutchison** and **Serhita V. Saez Castello**  
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs George Clark Hutchison, of Westbury, Northamptonshire, and Yolanda, youngest daughter of Señores de Saez Castello, of Pineda, Zaragoza.

**Mr W.G.F. Pearnley-Whittinghall** and **Miss T. Dicoek**  
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs W.G. Pearnley-Whittinghall, of Eastington, Gloucestershire, and Tamara, daughter of the late Mr Daniel Dicoek and of Mrs Michael Reynolds, of Edmonton, Canada.

**Mr C.P.G. Giavotto** and **Miss C.E.A. McDonald**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of the late Mr Emilio Giavotto and of Mrs Giavotto, of Elgin, Scotland, and Cariona, daughter of Dr Ronald McDonald, of Ramsey, Isle of Man, and Dr Anne Bolton, of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man.

**Mr J.W. Holland** and **Miss C.F. Bunting**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs William Holland, of Loughlough, Essex, and Colette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ted Bunting, of Chigwell, Essex.

**Mr G. McCabe** and **Miss E.A.M. Barrett**  
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of the late Mr Arthur McCabe, of Chelsea, London, and Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr Richard Barrett, of Dallas, Texas, and Mrs Jennifer Chapman, of Fulham, London.

**Mr P.M. Maxton** and **Mrs N.L. Dicks**  
The marriage took place on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, in London, between Mr Peter Maxton and Mrs Nicola Dicks (née Wright).

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS**: Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, writer, London, 1671; Victor Hugo, author, Besancon, France, 1802; William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill), showman, Scott County, Iowa, 1846; Emilie Coue, psychologist, Troyes, France, 1857; Frank Bridge, composer, Brighton, 1879.

**DEATHS**: Thomas d'Urfy, satirist, London, 1723; Giuseppe Tassinari, composer, Padua, 1770; Alexander Geddes, biblical critic, London, 1802; John Philip Kemble, actor-manager, Lausanne, 1823; Alois Senefelder, inventor of lithography, Munich, 1834; Frederick Tennyson, poet, London, 1898; Sir Harry Lauder, comedian, Strathaven, 1950; William Ralph Inge, Dean of St Paul's 1911-34, Wallingford, 1954; Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel 1963-69, Jerusalem, 1969; Karl Jaspers, Existentialist philosopher, Basle, 1969.

E1 and E2 banknotes were issued for the first time, 1797. Napoleon escaped from Elba, 1815.

**Mr S. Ludlam** and **Miss S. Sorrondegui**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Ludlam, of Bath, Somerset, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean Sorrondegui, of Paris, France.

**Mr F.H.C. Price** and **Miss R.J. Wigley**  
The engagement is announced between Frederick, younger son of Mr Christopher (Nij) Price and the late Mrs Price, of Morton Bagot, Warwickshire, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ishwyn Wigley, of Radyr, Cardiff.

**Mr M.D. Skingley** and **Miss H.R. Barton**  
The engagement is announced between Matthew Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs Brough Skingley, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Helena Ruth, elder daughter of the late Mr Ian Barton and of Mrs Victoria Barton, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

**Mr S.R. Sporborg** and **Miss R.E.D. Gresham Thompson**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Sporborg, of Upwick Green, Hertfordshire, and Rachel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham Gresham Thompson, of Wood End, Hertfordshire.

**Mr G. Thomas** and **Miss D. Benson**  
The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs Eric Thomas, of Newport, Shropshire, and Danielle, daughter of Mr Jeffrey Benson and Mrs Merilyn Wardlaw, both of London.

**Flight Lieutenant A.J. Vine** and **Miss R.E.M. Wilcox**  
The engagement is announced between Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Vine, of Ferring, West Sussex, and Rachel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lionel Wilcox, of Eppingham House, Norfolk.

**Mr D.C. Webb** and **Miss V.K. Eastwistle**  
The engagement is announced between David Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs E.E. Webb, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria Kate, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A.P. Eastwistle, of Knaresborough, Cheshire.

**Mr J.M.B. Wilson** and **Miss K.V. McKenzie**  
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of the late Mr Guy Wilson and of Mrs Wilson, of Wetherill, Cumberland, and Kerry, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm McKenzie, of Esher, Surrey.

**Marriage**  
Mr P.M. Maxton and Mrs N.L. Dicks. The marriage took place on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, in London, between Mr Peter Maxton and Mrs Nicola Dicks (née Wright).

**Meeting**  
Byron Society. Miss Elaine Feinstein and Mr Francis Carr were the speakers at a meeting of the Byron Society held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1, to mark Pushkin's Bicentenary. Lord Byron and Mr Geoffrey Bond, chairman, also spoke.

**University news**  
Oxford. Jesus College. Karen Jessica Balder (BA Sc McManis) has been elected to a Tarnock Junior Research Fellowship from October 1, in Environmental Change.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

**BIRTHS**  
HAMILTON - On February 23rd, 1999, to Sarah Jane Hamilton a son, Joe Tancered, a brother for Flynn.  
HOUSE - On February 9th, 1999, to Sarah Jane Taylor and Christopher, a daughter, Alexandra Emma.  
HUGILL - On February 22nd, 1999, to Christine and Nigel, a daughter, Meg to delight Rev. Johnny and Rory.  
JOHNS - On February 19th, 1999, to Louise and William, a daughter, Lily Anna, a gift from God.  
MICHELLETHWAIT - On February 17th, 1999, to John and Mary, twin sons, Guy William and Edward Hugh.  
ROBERTS - On February 12th, 1999, to Susan and Robert, a daughter, Charlotte.  
TREHENE POLOK - On February 22nd, 1999, to Louise and Blair, a daughter, Helena Penelope Jane.  
DEATHS  
BOND - On 12th February 1999 suddenly at home Andrew aged 54 years. Further enquiries to Tapper Funeral Service, tel: Poole (01202) 673164.

**DEATHS**  
BRANER - On 17th February 1999, peacefully at home, Phyllis, mother of the late Sandra Brannan and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at 11.30 am on Friday, 26th February 1999 at St Luke's Church, Chelsea. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to the Zoological Society of London, c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD.  
CAMPBELL - Sally Natalie (née Holt) suddenly at home Tuesday 23rd February 1999. Beloved daughter of Richard and Susan (deceased) and stepdaughter of Gwen. Much loved by her friends. Funeral at 1.30 pm on Monday 29th February 1999 at Rosevale Crematorium, Belfast at 1.30 pm.  
CHAYTOR - Peacefully on 23rd February at The Old Rectory, Weymouth, Dorset, Edmund, aged 90. Loved and treasured by all his family. Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium, near Bridgwater on Monday 1st March at 1 pm. Family flowers only please but donations may be sent to RSPB, 18 High Street, Newnham, Powis SY16 2NP.  
DEANE - Timothy George on 24th February suddenly at Royal Liverpool Hospital, beloved brother of Alan and Frederick.

**DEATHS**  
DERHAM - Diana died quietly on Wednesday 24th February 1999 aged 88 at the Chichester. Widow of James and beloved mother and grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Eastdown Park Crematorium on Thursday 4th March at 2 pm. No flowers but donations if wished to the Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o J.B. Hall & Co., 142 Fincham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire.  
ESLING - Peter Walter, Barrister at Law, Alton Chambers, Bristol, On 23rd February 1999. Gone peacefully.  
HEDGECOCK - Kitty passed away on 13th January 1999. Beloved wife of Michael. Memorial Service on 23rd April at 2.30 pm at Appleton, Kent.  
JACKSON - Don Thomas Leonard, monk, died peacefully on 23rd February 1999. Requiem Mass 2nd March 1999, 12 noon at Ampleford Abbey.  
LOREN - Sir Giles Robt. Bt. of Lonsdale, Lower Beeding, died peacefully on 24th February aged 94 years. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at 3 pm on Friday March 26th at Holy Trinity Church, Lower Beeding, near Horsham.  
MACDONALD - Peacefully at Holy Trinity Hospital, Aberdeen, on February 24th, 1999, Calum Macdonald, 64.2.2.2. Secretary, Library, Publisher of *Isle of Skye* and formerly of Edinburgh, son of the late Mr and Mrs Macdonald of Braemar, the late Winnie, dear father of Ann Marie, Calum, Maureen, Angus, Ross and the late Donald, much loved grandfather and great-grandfather and dear brother of Euan and Mary. Service in Morvenhall Crematorium, Aberdeen, on Tuesday March 2nd at 2.00 pm to which all friends are warmly invited. Family flowers only.

**DEATHS**  
MURPHY - On 24th February 1999, the late Mrs. Murphy, aged 82, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family. Family and friends are invited to a funeral service to be held at 3 pm on Thursday 4th March at St. Mary's Church, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823,



















# Marsh with solid foundation



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Wanted: a team of politicians with time on their hands, an appetite for hard work and an interest in the world of finance. The number of potential candidates, probably not high to begin with, will inevitably be further reduced by the added stipulation that the interest in matters financial should not be tainted by any involvement with financial institutions.

Perhaps it is the shortage of possible members that has delayed the establishment of the parliamentary committee due to scrutinise the Bill set to revolutionise financial regulation in Britain. But if it does not get down to business very soon, the members will find themselves putting in some long sessions if there is to be any hope of it finishing its work by the end of April deadline.

The Financial Services Authority is a reality, now enshrined in its Canary Wharf tower, but it regulates only with borrowed powers, those conferred on the organisations it has now gathered under its umbrella. The FSA needs the Financial Services and Markets Bill to hit the statute books before it can become a fully fledged super regulator. That is scheduled to happen next year but steering this intensely complicated and controversial Bill through the legislative process will be a demanding task. Letting a parliamentary joint committee take a close look at the Bill

first could streamline proceedings but much will depend on the calibre of the committee and, in particular, its chairman.

A cross-bench peer is expected to be appointed to this crucial task. One name being suggested is that of Lord Marsh. The former Labour Minister left the Commons in 1975 to become chairman of British Rail but his credentials for casting a careful eye over the future of financial regulation include a spell as chairman of the Laurentian financial group. More recently, Lord Marsh popped up as the chairman of Business for Sterling, the lobby group determined to preserve the pound. He has now handed that task to Rodney Leach, although retaining an involvement as president of the campaign. That would probably not be too time consuming to prevent him taking on the chairmanship of the parliamentary committee. And someone has to do it.

Despite some changes that have already been made to the Bill, there are still fears in some quarters that the powers being proposed for the FSA could be in contravention of European provisions on human rights. The new regulator will have powers to

levy unlimited fines in certain cases. In the wake of the personal pensions scandal, there will be some parliamentarians who think that such powers may well be necessary. The chairman of the FSA, Howard Davies, does not believe that the Bill would create a monster. But if the joint committee indicated real concerns, then the legislation could be gently reshaped without jeopardising the entirety.

## More good people write for the shelf

Almost everyone in business would like some change in company law. The trouble is that nagging rules bore politicians too. It is bad enough being faced with lengthy debates on financial regulation but the auditing requirements made of tiny companies do not have MPs leaping to their feet demanding action. Even fairly un-

contentious matters raised decades ago never reach the statute book unless they can be slipped into some Bill required to put EU directives into UK law.

Not surprisingly, issues accumulate on the shelf until their combined weight triggers some vast set-piece inquiry. Voluminous reports full of detailed proposals are bound to follow. Then comes total inaction. The all-embracing review set up by Margaret Beckett in her DTI days was meant to satisfy trendy demands for company law to be rewritten. The agenda was to shrink shareholders' rights in favour of employees, the Community and any others who could claim the recently fashionable but already forgotten status of stakeholder. It was also meant to frighten companies into obeying the voluntary corporate governance codes.

The Steering Group dutifully devoted a short chapter of its 214 page initial consultation document to stakeholder matters. The

outcome is a series of interesting questions for student essays, that can be left to hang in the ether.

Almost inevitably, given the massive lobby and saintly virtue of small businesses, their complaints attract far more support. Blinded by tears of admiration, like so many previous committees, this one would clearly prefer to remove all transparency from their affairs, if Brussels would allow. Failing that, company law should be rewritten for small firms, with big companies being added on the end.

This reversal of roles sounds attractive but it reverses history. Company Law was set up for joint stock companies. Small firms just jumped on the limited liability bandwagon. Most companies should not exist. If a new way can be found of limiting risk for new businesses without cutting them off from credit, fine.

Otherwise, the review should concentrate on two practical problems. The first is how to

achieve rolling reform of company law in bite-sized chunks. The equivalent of the Accounting Standards Board would fit the bill. The second is how to lobby to get the right EU directives and then ensure they lapse after 20 years instead of straitjacketing our economies for ever.

## Two hats thrown into the Bullring

Birmingham can only be a better place after the attentions of two of the country's largest property companies. That Land Securities and Hamptons are joining forces to redevelop the city centre should be applauded. It is a sensible solution to a stand off that had seen them both planning major schemes which, in competition, would have been chasing the same tenants. Co-operation is an adult solution to the problem. It should also streamline marketing costs.

Whether central Birmingham really can become the continental-looking piazza of the artist's impression is another matter. But the two developers would find it difficult to produce anything less lovely than the Bull-

ring Centre, a slum almost from the day the builders left. Land Securities has long been committed to town centre developments, largely eschewing the rush to out-of-town development. Current chief executive Ian Henderson insists that he shares his predecessors' convictions. Hamptons, however, was responsible for the first major out-of-town shopping centre, at Brent Cross. With enormous foresight, the company took a former dog racing track and turned it into a shopping mecca.

Now the Government is insistent that there will be no more such schemes, so ambitious developers have no choice but to return to the city centres. The Birmingham scheme could become a blueprint for future inner city partnerships.

## Eastern promise

WHILE interest-rate sensitive savers have been flocking to Egg, there are still plenty of people prepared to ignore the rate of interest on a loan. Provident Financial charges customers up to £39 per £100 borrowed, so it is probably not surprising if customers are defaulting on debts and pushing up provisions. But there is no shortage of customers. As countries in the former Eastern bloc discover the joys of capitalism, they are learning the costs of borrowing. Provident agents have marched into the Czech Republic and Poland.

# Oil price fall sees Lasmo cut back production target

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

LASMO has cut back its oil production targets after a large reduction in spending, forced on the company by the depressed oil price.

The oil explorer, which yesterday confirmed it was still in merger talks with rival Enterprise Oil, intends to halve its annual drilling budget to £55 million and plans to reduce its development spending in Venezuela from \$300 million (£237 million) to \$200 million.

Joe Darby, chief executive, said that the spending cutback will reduce Lasmo's target oil output for 2001 by up to 30,000 barrels per day from a current forecast of 250,000 bpd. At the same time the company has taken a £360 million write-down against the value of its oil producing assets, mainly in the North Sea and Indonesia.

Shrinking budgets are part of a strategy to make sure the group is cash neutral after a year in which Lasmo's £48 million profit in 1997 was transformed into an equivalent loss, before the asset write-down.

Mr Darby said: "We are targeting to be profitable in 1999 at a Brent price of above \$12 per barrel, \$3 lower than our 1998 breakeven price." For every dollar move in the oil price, Lasmo experiences a \$20 million gain or loss to its cashflow.

Lasmo's chief executive would not comment on the progress of the Enterprise talks but said that he expected them to reach a conclusion next month. He said that other options were being considered: "We are looking at alliances with other companies."

He indicated that alliances might be strategic tie-ups in a particular region rather than a full merger. Oil companies are queuing up to gain access to the low-cost onshore oilfields in Opec countries and Lasmo is looking at partnerships that might improve access to the Middle East.

Lasmo's asset write-downs comprise a £165 million hit to 11 North Sea fields and a £111 million write-off at Sanga Sanga, Lasmo's Indonesian liquefied natural gas project, where the gas contract is linked to the oil price.

A further £84 million has been written off Dacion, the Venezuela heavy oil investment. Paul Murray, finance director, said that reduced spending would not affect the company's production target as the field is producing more oil and less water than anticipated.

Lasmo is maintaining the dividend at 2.3p per share.

Darby: looking at alliances

City Diary, page 35

# Eidos zaps early loss

THE enduring popularity of Lara Croft, heroine of Tomb Raider computer games, has helped Eidos to achieve another set of record Christmas trading profits. The computer games company said it made a profit of £51.3 million (£31.3 million) in 1998's last quarter - mainly from Tomb Raider III.

This offset earlier losses to leave nine-month profits at £32.4 million, against £13 million last time. Eidos launched 17 games in the period, including Final Fantasy IV.

However, it took a £3 million hit to cover a decline in shares in ASA, a Norwegian optical cable company in which it has a 15 per cent stake.

Earnings per share in the nine months to December 31, were 112.3p (£0.2p). The shares fell 20p to £14.37 1/2p.

# Arjo feels the pinch

MARGIN pressure in the paper and packaging industry has restricted Arjo Wiggins Appleton to a pre-tax profit of £201 million in 1998, down 2.2 per cent (Paul Armstrong writes).

Ken Minton, the chairman, said he did not expect Arjo's markets to improve, although the company's recent restructuring was likely to bring benefits later in the year. A final dividend of

5.4p was declared, which takes the year's payout to 8.5p, compared with 8p last year.

Arjo has been split into three separate divisions, and the board is considering various options, including a sale or a flotation.

The recent restructuring also saw the departure of Philippe Beyerle, the company's chief executive.

You have a great acquisition opportunity.

# Can you spare the cash?



## SB to consider share buyback

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, which is set to receive more than £1 billion from its recently announced disposals, is to seek shareholder approval to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

The proceeds from selling Diversified Pharmaceutical Services and Clinical Laboratories, two US businesses, will help to clear the £1.45 billion of debt with which the pharmaceuticals group ended 1998.

SB said it was not committed to buying back its shares but it wanted to have as much flexibility as possible. A spokesman said: "Our priority is to invest in the business."

But if it is deemed appropriate, then the shares will be bought back.

Most share buybacks are made by poorly rated companies and by those such as banks that have accumulated excess capital.

With its shares trading at almost 45 times last year's earnings, it would be unusual for SB to opt for a buyback - particularly since pharmaceutical companies are under continual pressure to invest more in new drug development.

The company will seek the shareholder authority at its annual meeting.

Yesterday its shares fell 35 1/2p to 889p.

## Liffe votes for share shake-up

LIFFE, the London futures and options exchange, took its first steps towards a stock market flotation when plans to re-organise the share structure of the organisation were voted through by members unanimously.

The move, cleared at an extraordinary meeting yesterday, splits shareholdings from the right to trade on Liffe.

Brian Williamson, the Liffe chairman said: "This is a vital step towards becoming a commercial, customer-driven business that delivers value to shareholders."

"In future, the exchange will seek to achieve profits and as appropriate pay dividends as appropriate."

## Barclays Bank PLC

With effective from 1st March 1999 lending interest rates have been decreased as follows:

	New Rate	Old Rate
Barclays Executive Loan under £15,000	12.75% p.a.	13.25% p.a.
Over £15,000	12.25% p.a.	13.25% p.a.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Dixons surges on talk of German Net link-up

SHARES of Dixons, the high street retailer, surged to yet another new high with a rise of 22½p at £11.85. The price has come up from the 79½p level, so far, this year.

Dealers say the company is mulling its new "Internet label" for all it is worth. The group's own Internet service provider, Freeserve, has now attracted more than one million subscribers and could provide a big boost to profits in years to come.

Claims that Freeserve is about to link up with a similar service offered by Bertelsmann, the German publisher, was behind yesterday's rise.

It certainly excited the likes of Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, which rates the shares a "buy" and has raised its target price from £11 to £13.

Rival broker Charternhouse Tilney takes a more cautious view of events after a meeting with the company.

It believes the shares are up with events and says Dixons may be sacrificing margins in order to boost sales. This may lead to a profit downgrade.

Overnight losses on Wall Street and another unconvincing start to trading for the Dow Jones industrial average yesterday brought London's record-breaking run in a shuddering halt.

The FTSE 100 index closed 10.1 down at 6,206.5 as a total of 1.14 billion shares changed hands. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index closed 5.9 up at 5,226.1.

Despite the setback for shares, there was little selling pressure reported and brokers are confident that sheer weight of money will continue to drive prices higher in the short term.

A combination of profit taking and general absence of support left prices closing just above their worst levels of the day.

Loss-making Orange, headed by Hans Snook, dived 5½p to 90½p after Hutchison Whampoa reduced its stake in the mobile telephone company below 50 per cent. Almost 5 per cent of Britain's third-biggest mobile phone operator changed hands as Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, placed 50 million shares at 85p. A total of 72.36 million shares had changed hands by the close. The sale raised £425 million for Hutchison.

British Aerospace, which continues to hold a small stake in Orange, fell 2½p to 420½p after trading news.



Hans Snook saw Orange shares fall 5½p after Hutchison Whampoa reduced its stake in the mobile-phone operator

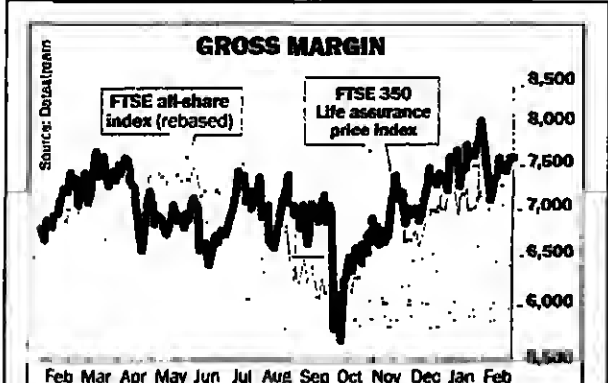
Elsewhere among the leaders, Compass Group extended Wednesday's gains with a rise of 20½p at 76½p on the back of some encouraging words to shareholders at the annual meeting.

BTR Siebe was also a firm market, adding 1½p at 26½p as the pound continued to lose ground against the dollar.

Brokers found little to cheer about in this week's results

from Cadbury Schweppes, which dipped back below the £10 level to finish 27½p lower at 97½p. There was disappointment about the group's refusal to conduct a share buy-back and concern about a slow start to trading in the current year.

Deutsche Bank has cut its rating for the shares from "neutral" to "underperform". It has set a target price of 900p.



THE move by Legal & General chief David Prosser to

buy back shares in order to boost the share price, sent a shudder through the rest of the life insurers. Clearly there is some concern that the rest of the sector will be forced to follow suit.

Legal & General finished nursing a loss of 109½p at 798½p, while Norwich Union, reporting next week, ended 24½p down at 448½p.

Others to give up ground included Prudential, down 34½p to 854½p, United Assurance 16½p to 543½p, af-

ter results, and Sun Life & Provincial, 16½p to 433½p. But Roman Cridgen at Merrill Lynch, the broker, reckons market fears have been overdone. Worries about margins are not new.

"Everyone knows that David Prosser has no qualms about balancing volume against margin in order to grab market share."

Prices across the sector may fall further but bid talk — centring on acquisitive banks or domestic or European insurers — will limit the downside, he adds.

RJB Mining celebrated the possibility of averting damaging industrial action with a rise of 5p at 67½p. The Union of Democratic Mineworkers has said it will recommend a revised offer worth 3.1 per cent to its members.

Regent Inns, which is discussing a nil-premium merger with SFI Group, shed 4p to 182½p as hopes of a bid from Bass evaporated. The company is now expected to proceed with the SFI merger and final details could be announced next month. SFI eased 1p to 168½p, while Bass stood out with a rise of 25p at 837½p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, recommended the shares.

AIM-listed Methvens was unmoved at 31½p as the wife of chairman Andrew Swanson picked up 10,000 shares at 33p. It takes his family's holding to 2.62 million, or 17.89 per cent.

Quality Software was one of the day's best performers, climbing 55½p to 450½p after confirmation that the group will be launching two new internet products next week.

A downturn trading session took its toll of Card Clear, down 3p at 36p. The company said it was conducting a review of strategy, organisation and structure.

Electronic Boutique fell 4p to 79½p as brokers continued to ponder the group's proposed acquisition of Game. 12p better at 142½p. City speculators say this may not be the end of the story as far as Electronic Boutique is concerned.

GILT-EDGED: Further losses in US treasury bonds overnight and a stronger than expected CBI industrial trends survey sent bond prices in London lower. Losses at the longer end stretched to almost £2.

Dealers reported little real weight of selling, but a general absence of support.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished £1.12 down at £116.25, after briefly touching £116.25. But trading conditions generally proved thin with just 25,000 contracts completed. Among conventional stocks, Treasury 3 per cent 2021 fell £1.85 to £147.18, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 4½p to £106.79.

NEW YORK: Shares were sharply lower in morning trade on fears of an imminent rise in long-term interest rates. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 136.36 at 9,273.31.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 9273.31 (-136.36)

S&amp;P Composite 1231.27 (-22.04)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 14470.45 (-115.00)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 7658.07 (-16.50)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index 354.51 (-4.20)

Sydney:

All Ordinaries 2304.5 (-29.7)

Frankfurt:

DAX 4958.58 (-103.73)

Singapore:

Straits Times 1410.22 (-0.76)

Brussels:

BEL20 3404.84 (-9.41)

Paris:

CAC-40 4152.56 (-61.14)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 1302.80 (-18.20)

London:

FTSE 100 6206.5 (-10.1)

FTSE 250 5226.1 (+5.9)

FTSE 350 6206.5 (-10.1)

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## Time to rein in COLT

COLT TELECOM represents one of Tempus' least successful calls. Twice last year, first when the shares were at 442p, and again when the shares were at 662p this column passed negative judgment on the stock.

There are reasons why COLT has defied the Tempus premonitions of doom and, to a large extent, logic. Telecoms markets are seeing explosive growth thanks to a high-octane mixture of liberalisation and heavy investment in the Internet. COLT is also capitalising on the growth. Annual results posted yesterday showed sales growth of 164 per cent, a supercharged performance that seems to vindicate the fans.

Thanks to the superior quality of its new build telecoms networks (which carry data more cost-effectively than the old-fashioned networks still used by former state-owned op-

erators) COLT can offer specialised customer service to individual, high-usage, business clients. Best of all, the tailored services can be sold at prices that are attractive to its customers, but still lucrative for COLT. Moreover, COLT has surprisingly few competitors. It is already in 12 cities across Europe and plans to be in 26 by the end of 2000. Finally, COLT's management has performed soundly, consistently churning out results on-target with expectations, as they did yesterday.

But even with a 10 per cent fall yesterday COLT's market value is still 30 times its just reported annual sales of £215 million. It may be a brilliant company but competition will increase. Besides, stock shortages have exaggerated the share price movements.

Tempus has a red face on this one, but now is not the time to change tack. Sell.

## Rio Tinto

RIO TINTO's share price, like that of just about every mining stock, has seen little of the bull market enthusiasm fuelling price rises in so many other sectors. At root of Rio's unpopularity is the parous state of mineral prices for coal, iron ore and copper.

The poor look of the last three years' performance, shown in the graph, is exaggerated by the sharp fall of late 1997. Rio shares lost touch on relative grounds when several industrial battles on the company's Australian coalfields added to its commodity price woes.

Troubles were compounded by the Asian crisis and growing awareness that excess capacity plagued many of its markets.

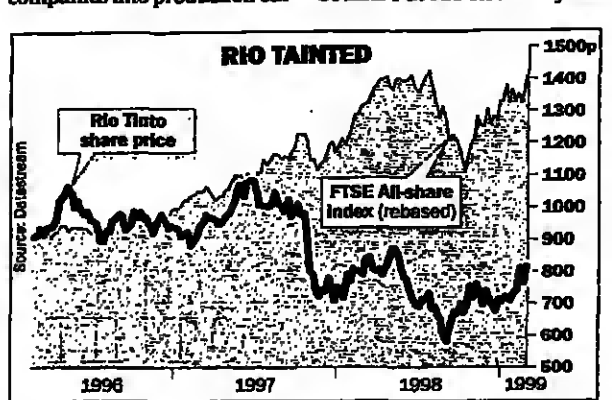
Just when it seemed things could not get any worse, Rio chairman Robert Wilson gave warning yesterday that this year's profit would at-

most certainly be lower than 1998. Commodity prices, Wilson concedes, are also unlikely to improve before 2000.

But Rio is well placed to capitalise on a commodity price recovery. It boasts some of the lowest-cost mining projects in the world and stands to benefit in the long term if a prolonged slump forces other companies into production cut-

backs. Rio's strong balance sheet means it could make opportunistic acquisitions. Management is also sound.

If ever there was a time to act on the adage "buy in gloom and sell in boom", this is it. The short-term outlook is far from rosy, and the wait for better times could try the impatient. But the upside is there to be had. Put Rio on the buy list.



## Legal &amp; General

YESTERDAY'S thumping 109½p — or 12 per cent — fall in the price of Legal & General shares was overdue. The stock has had a tremendous run: up to Wednesday night the shares outperformed the UK average by 15 per cent over one year, and by nearly 200 per cent over five years.

But measured in relation to earnings per share multiples and dividend yields the stock was also well in advance of the market as a whole and its insurance peer group.

Investors have been impressed by L&G's "buy it high and sell it cheap" approach to insurance and investment. It will be a lasting tribute to David Prosser, the chief executive, that he recognised much earlier than many of his insurance company rivals that there was a huge opportunity to sell low-cost product in big volume.

He anticipated the new Labour enthusiasm for cheap,

standardised products for the masses. The Government may be loath to admit it, given the way it picked out L&G for a pension mis-selling handbagging, but this firm is in prime position to deliver exactly what new Labour wants. In addition, there remains room for further exciting growth from this strategy.

But the ruthless pursuit of market share is beginning to worry. Low cost means narrow margins and, now the competition is cottoning on, compensations from volume gains are not as easy to find.

Coupled with the fact that L&G is still overpriced, the best course of action is to continue selling.

## Hanson

HANSON has enjoyed stock market support in recent months partly because the company is seen as being a prime beneficiary of a large road-building programme in America. According to Han-

son, the best of this is still to come, and stretches out at least until the year 2005. In the meantime Hanson is demonstrating that it can deliver margin improvements by keeping a firm hand on divisional pricing strategies and by cutting costs.

Sentiment is also helped because the cost of a major environmental clean up in the States appears to be covered. Those costs relate to problems created well before the current management took over.

Short term, Hanson's prospects seem assured. What is more troubling is whether new Hanson can thrive without the volume gains flowing from the US. In addition, it is difficult to believe that aggregates, thanks to planning restrictions, really do have scarcity value as Hanson says they do. If it falls out of the FTSE 100, the shares would be hit hard, too.

But hold for now.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

## COMMODITIES

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## Shopping for a true champion

It has been tempting for a Government that has long since ditched its commitment to workers' rights to reinvent itself as the consumer's champion. In recent months, supermarkets and carmakers have found themselves under investigation for alleged overpricing policies, while the pension companies have faced an almost ceaseless round of naming and shaming since the last election. Yet for all the consumer-friendly rhetoric, there is little sign that the Government's adoption of the harassed shopper is anything more than pragmatic politics. The targets have so far been highly selective, providing little evidence of the development of a more coherent approach to consumer issues. The Government often appears caught between using tough consumerist language and its desire to maintain a cosy relationship with big business. The feeling is that the supermarkets, in particular, may well ultimately receive kid-glove treatment because the Government needs the goodwill of retailers to help to deliver other vital parts of its agenda.

The heart of the problem is that the machinery for consumer protection is complex, cumbersome and sometimes contradictory. The two principal protagonists of consumer affairs — the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Fair Trading — lump the issue together with their more high-profile competition work. However, as Mark Boland, director-general of the Association of British Insurers, notes in a paper written for the Social Market Foundation, competition and consumer protection are not altogether compatible bed-fellows. While some issues such as stemming monopolistic behaviour may have an obvious overlap, much consumer protection has little to do with competition mechanisms.

To further confuse matters a myriad of other quasi-governmental organisations also have responsibility for consumers. The government-funded but autonomous National Consumers Council (NCC) concentrates solely on consumer affairs, but has only advisory powers. Major regulators — from Oflet to the Financial Services Authority — also have consumer responsibilities, while the Cabinet Office has an interest through its Better Regulation unit.

Steering a coherent strategy across such a diverse range of government machinery would seem to require committed ministerial leadership. Yet the consumer affairs brief at the DTI is left to the most junior minister in the department and even then is still bundled with competition. The current incumbent, Dr Kim Howells, has so far adopted a remarkably low profile in contrast to the garrulous reputation of his predecessor, Nigel Griffiths. Dr Howells was once regarded as a left-wing firebrand, a former Communist Party member and National Union of Mineworkers activist who organised the famous 1968 Hornsea College sit-in. However, in recent years he has completed a remarkable transformation into an ultra Blair loyalist, even describing himself as "probably the most right-wing member of the Labour Party".

The situation is little better at the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT does at least have a director solely concerned with consumer affairs, long-standing OFT employee Caroline Banks. However, the ultimate powers remain in the hands of John Bridgeman, Director-General, who simultaneously wears the main competition hat. The guidelines the OFT follows for taking action on consumer issues also leave much to be desired. Although the OFT has commissioned a more thorough analysis from London Economics, the independent consultancy, its current guidelines remain vague and seem based as much on ease of investigation and its ability to take immediate action as the merits of individual cases.

There is little hope that leadership can come from elsewhere in the consumer affairs sector. The NCC does a worthy job at raising a number of issues but its chairman, David Hatch, a former BBC radio controller and one-time acting partner of John Cleese, is only a two-day-a-week figurehead. The NCC's preferred solution is for the creation of a dedicated consumer affairs ministry with the mandate to champion consumer issues across Government. However, this approach was unsuccessfully tried by a Labour Government in the 1970s with the creation of a Minister for Prices and Consumer Protection. The danger is that such a powerful figure could quickly prove too much of an obstruction to other government business.

A far more practical solution would be to dedicate a mid-ranking DTI minister to consumer affairs. This would allow the creation of a coherent strategy but ensure that the issue of consumer protection continues to be viewed in the wider regulatory and competitiveness context. There are some signs that the Government is beginning to move in this direction with Dr Howells promising a White Paper on Consumer Strategy later in the spring. Rather than picking off some soft business targets, Dr Howells should take the opportunity to create an effective consumer's champion.

## Parallel traders choose to play role of consumers' champion

**Saeed Shah**  
examines the  
attack of the  
grey market  
traders on the  
designer brands

Helpless UK consumers have got used to paying over the odds for their favourite designer goods — those Ray Ban sunglasses, a Tommy Hilfiger T-shirt, Levi jeans, Calvin Klein underwear.

For those who can't resist Chanel No 5 but find their wallet is not up to their tastes, there is suddenly hope. The European Commission has started to consider a change to the 1988 European Trademark Directive that many blame for the high price of branded goods.

Brand owners are protected by the Directive, which allows them to control the supply of their products from outside the EU — sourcing from unauthorised suppliers is an infringement of their trademark under the law. This keeps their price at a premium, by restricting supply to those who will sell the product in "appropriate" surroundings and at a suitably impressive price.

Europe's fine perfumers say that people would rather pay £40 for a bottle of designer eau de toilette in Harrods than £20 in, say, Asda.

That was supported by a judgment last year from the European Court of Justice — the so-called Silhouette case — prohibiting the sale of Silhouette sunglasses that were sourced from Bulgaria without the authorisation of the manufacturer.

Companies supply products at prices that vary from country to country. It is a truism that what you pay for a pair of jeans in the US, will cost you £10 here.

A report published today by the National Economic Research Associates (Nera), an economic consultancy, found that almost all goods were cheaper in the US than Europe, by about 40 to 50 per cent.

John Rhye, one of the authors of the Nera report, says that firms know they can get away with it. "You can expect firms to charge the prices that consumers are willing to pay," he says.

Parallel — or "grey" — imports are goods obtained through unofficial distribution channels. They should not be confused with counterfeit goods. Parallel traders either



American designer Tommy Hilfiger, whose brand is one of the most popular targets of parallel traders in the UK

take advantage of price differentials in other countries or decide not to charge such a big margin on the goods.

Tesco says its grey market goods are often sourced at prices similar to official suppliers: it is just that they have chosen to charge a smaller mark-up on each item. Designers do not like this.

The supermarket chain is to go to the High Court later this year after Levi Strauss took exception to its sale of Levi 501 jeans for £30. The jeans sell for about £50 in most outlets. This week Tesco has put on sale £1 million worth of Ralph Lauren trousers and jackets at knock-down prices.

Similarly, independent motor cycle distributors will find themselves in the dock in November, after Honda took action against cut-price bikes that had been obtained unofficially. The assault on the motorcycle market by grey importers has already brought their prices down by some 30 per cent on some models.

Gary Lux, spokesman for the Parallel Traders Association, says, "My members risk being sued every day by supplying cheaper products."

Goods manufactured under licence are the ones most susceptible to parallel traders, as brand owners only have limited control and manufacturers can quite easily slip some excess production on to the grey market.

A study by the Government of New Zealand found that in 1997, the grey market in the UK was worth 0.2 per cent of

GNP or £1.63 billion. There is a head of steam now building up for a change in the law on parallel imports.

Yesterday, European trade ministers met to discuss the Nera report, which it commissioned. Mario Monti, the EU Commissioner for the Single Market, has recently positioned himself for a change in the law. He has voiced his anger at the way companies use a law meant to protect their trademarks to stifle competition and boost their prices.

In Britain Kim Howells, the Consumer Affairs Minister, has signalled his support for parallel traders. The influential House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee has launched an inquiry into whether the European Trademark Directive needs to be repealed.

It follows their investigation into car pricing. The car findings so outraged MPs that they said that prison sentences should be considered for car manufacturers and dealers who systematically overcharge. Their report condemned the 35 per cent premium that British buyers face compared with most consumers on the Continent.

The Department of Transport is known to be considering lifting some of the UK-specific restrictions on parallel import of cars.

Richard Moore, spokesman for the British Independent Motor Trade Association, says: "The grey market is the most important consumer issue for many years. The UK in particular is seen as a honeypot by many companies. Politicians obviously want to be seen on the side of the consumer, especially the Labour Party

who are very consumer-friendly, and this is an issue where they can prove their consumer credentials."

The Nera report sees price falls possible by 20 to 40 per cent on some premium products, as a result of allowing parallel imports, though it says the macroeconomic impact on prices would be small, some 1 to 2 per cent, because most products are not well known brands.

There is also a public support for a change in the law. A MORI poll last September found that 79 per cent believe the Government should press for a change in the European law, following the experiences of supermarkets that try to sell designer goods at a discount.

At the moment, a designer cannot be sold in outlets where the customers first have to walk past the fruit and veg shelves. These selective distribution agreements are not scrutinised too closely in Europe if a firm has a small market share, as designers inevitably do.

One of the findings of the Nera report was that there are large price differentials within the EU. Doing away with the Trademark Directive would make no difference here, as companies already cannot prevent free sourcing within the EU but price differences remain inside the EU.

British consumers know that they can buy cheese, wine and even washing powder considerably cheaper in French hypermarkets. And we all

know how much cheaper cars are just across the Channel.

Phil Evans, senior policy researcher at the Consumers' Association, says that the attack on the Trademark Directive must be combined with an assault on selective distribution agreements within the EU. Together, he says, they have the effect of "rigging the market".

He says, "At the moment, consumers know it's not worth shopping around. There has come to be an air of normality about paying, for instance, £15 for a CD and people often do not question it. If high-price brands dropped their prices, it would have a knock-on effect right through the chain to cheaper goods."

What is needed, therefore, is a more rigorous application of European competition law, as well as allowing competition from parallel imports, in order to bring prices down, not only for designer products but for goods overall.

A change in the European trademark law is bound to be a slow process, as greedy companies lobby frantically against it. It is also unclear whether a new regime would allow complete freedom of sourcing or restrict it to countries with which the EU makes reciprocal agreements. It is also possible that some sectors, such as recorded music and pharmaceuticals, will get exemptions for any liberalisation.

The advent of the euro is bound to make some of those price differentials so transparent as to be unsustainable — for those countries that have adopted the single currency.

The protection of supply chains is also being undermined by the Internet, where individuals can become their own parallel traders, hunting down the cheapest goods all over the world.

Brand owners defend their practices by saying that they need to protect their brand image and that consumers value that prestige. There has clearly got to be some protection for firms to invest in research and marketing. However, many of the arguments are less than convincing. They say that after-sales service suffers if you go to a parallel importer, but how much after-sales service do you need for perfume or a T-shirt?

Any sector that claims exemptions should be made in justifying in detail why they are a special case. If European prices came down to those Americans are used to paying, everyone would feel the difference.

A big question, though, must hang over the psychology of consumers. Would they still want that baggy Tommy Hilfiger top if it was on sale in Kwik Save for a fiver?

## Jean genie

KEITH SKEOCH, one of our most visible City pundits, is leaving James Capel and HSBC's home for all his working life, to become chief investment officer at one of the clients, Standard Life.

This is the last of a number of departures from the HSBC economics team even if, as Skeoch tells me, this split is amicable and he gave up pure economics to be managing director of international equities a year ago.

The departures follow the decision to merge HSBC's economics team with James Capel's, from which Skeoch came, and they have tended to be on the HSBC side. As an economist, he denies any statistical significance. "In any merger there's a degree of fallout and a sense of exclusion as well."

Incidentally, Keith, a colleague has a memory of you and Marie Helvin in the bath on TV a decade or so back. "It wasn't on TV and it wasn't Marie Helvin." Some other economist then. But Skeoch admits to a fashion spread for jeans, with Debbie Moore of Pineapple Dance Studios. "We were fully clothed. I was the obligatory City person."



Skeoch: fashion victim

BEING the subject of so many takeover rumours can have its consolations, as Joe Darby, chief executive of Lasso, is finding. Among them is the fun of deflating the oversized egos of investment bankers.

Darby says a different team arrives almost daily with proposals for a merger. Ever the gentleman, he lets them in and offers coffee. But his patience runs out when they pull out the inevitable huge presentation document.

"I tell them to put it away — there's nothing in the book I don't know already. Then I ask them to name the other company they have in mind. Eventually they say, for example, Norsk Hydro. I tell them we've looked at it. They look terribly disappointed."

### Bill stickers

THE Labour rebels trying to block the Bill to reform the City's electoral franchise say they have received encouraging hints from the Corpora-



tion of London that parts may be amended.

On Wednesday night the Bill completed its second reading stage in opposition from 91 MPs. Notably, the reading saw the Government come off the fence for the first time — the private Bill is being brought by the Corporation and all involved have observed the polite fiction that it is non-political.

Chris Haines, chairman of the City branch of the Labour Party, which is fighting the reforms, says there have been indications from the Corporation that it may look favourably on amendments at the committee stage, in particular to require voters nominated by the big institutions to have closer links to the City.

The Corporation admits that it is considering some changes. But the rebels' wish to scrap rateable value as a measure of how many votes a firm gets in favour of the size of the payroll looks a non-starter.

THE latest two hirings to Commerzbank Global Equities risk analysis team are Rada Seridi and Asif Khan. The team produces complex models analysing derivatives risk, and the two have, respectively, a BEng in aeronautical engineering and a doctorate in plasma physics. Such qualifications are not unknown in derivatives, but this particular combination seems to justify the tag "rocket scientists".

### Verse again

SEVERAL weeks ago I wrote of John Mole, the City's new poet in residence, and quoted some of his more impenetrable lines. The poem he read at the launch of Poet in the City last night was more accessible. "The Trick" is about a strapping commuter in a packed carriage who dreams of being in Paris with the girl "who gently leant against you, opening her book". I and a colleague, a fellow forty-something, agree that it is tenderly romantic.

A member of the younger generation wrinkles her nose. "It's a bit pearly." Romance, like youth, is wasted on the young.

MARTIN WALLER  
city.diary@the-times.co.uk

## Time for a healthy private and public partnership

From Mr Michael A. Hall

Sir, With reference to your fascinating series "Prescriptions for the NHS", it is clear that the time has come for a national debate on the future funding of Britain's health service.

My own experience in both the public and private sector forms the basis for my belief that there is a real need for partnership and co-operation between public and private healthcare sectors to make the best use of available resources in the two sectors and to deliver quality healthcare to the nation.

There is already evidence of co-operation working in other markets, such as pensions and to a certain extent welfare benefits, which has received gov-

ernment support. It is disappointing that to date no progress has been made in the more politically sensitive area of health.

The only way to put an end to the deterioration of our health service is for the Government to hold a national debate to address the issues facing the NHS. The alternative is to allow waiting lists to increase and for more patients to find themselves waiting on trolleys in NHS corridors while beds lie empty in private wards.

Opportunities for public and private sectors to work together must be explored. One example could be the division between non-urgent and urgent treatment.

The private sector is particularly efficient in providing

treatment for non-urgent conditions which are normally short stay procedures and where turnover is high.

Conversely, these treatments are a drain on the time and resources of the NHS and restrict capacity to concentrate on more life-threatening conditions, in the treatment of which the NHS has an enviable reputation. Why not explore harnessing private versus public strengths to provide more cost-effective treatment?

Prime Health's own research has shown that the British public feel that there should be co-operation between public and private healthcare sectors. Sixty-two per cent of those surveyed believe a working partnership should be established be-

tween the two sectors, and more than half feel that the NHS will be unable to cope without the help of the independent sector.

The NHS, the institution which we all inevitably trust with our lives, cannot continue to hunch from crisis to crisis. It is time for a proper debate on the future of healthcare in this country and the private sector is ready and willing to play its part in this debate.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL A. HALL,  
Managing Director,  
Prime Health Limited,  
Wey House,  
Farnham Road,  
Guildford,  
Surrey,  
GU1 4XS.

## The Index-Tracking PEP

Source: Mifcor/LGIM, Legal & General FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP on offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 01.11.95. Legal & General since launch to 08.02.99. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 08.04.99 the credit on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10% (both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested). Full written details are available on request. All monies are correct as at 08.02.99. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 2000. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Invest) Limited, Registered in England No. 2702090. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TF. Representative only if the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IAGB for the purposes of recommending, advising on, selling or life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. 16155-100100-170299

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John Hall 150







Christine Buckley  
Company law reform



raise tobacco taxes, increase crime and lose revenue? Or cut taxes, cut crime and raise extra revenue? That is the choice that will face the Chancellor this year. If he rejects the need to cut taxes the consequences are simple and clear. Cigarette distribution will continue to fall into the hands of criminals. These gangs of smugglers will sell more and more to anyone who will buy and continue to sell to under-16s. They will also deprive our government of even more than the £1.5 billion that is currently lost in revenue. Today at least one cigarette in seven avoids UK tax. So do three in four packs of rolling tobacco. Only six years ago virtually none did. With weak border controls and increasing profit margins, the criminals' business will keep growing.

WARNING: FROM TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS  
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هكذا في الأصل



By PAUL ARMSTRONG

The bottom-line result was \$700 million (\$1.22 billion), after a change in accounting standards forced a \$403 million charge after tax. A final dividend of 35.5 cents was declared, leaving the full-year payout unchanged at 52 cents.



back of a 16 per cent increase in Hyundai registrations.

Lex has £63 million cash and is due to receive a further £44 million in April as part of the sale to Halifax of a half share in Lex Vehicle Leasing.

A spokesman declined to comment on reports that Lex and Cinven, the venture capital group, are planning a £400 million bid for the RAC, the motor insurance organisation.

By DOMINIC WALSH

The two men were sacked after they secretly went to Vaux's biggest shareholders to express their dissatisfaction with the decision. The board, whose chairman is Sir Paul Nicholson, has been accused of lack of impartiality as the MBO is led by Frank Nicholson, Sir Paul's younger brother.

**ASSTEAD**, the plant hire company, is acquiring **UK Plant** for £20.5 million in cash and shares. UK Plant has 41 depots across England, Scotland and Wales, and in 1998 earned £7.1 million pre-tax profits on turnover of £25 million. Asstead is raising £30 million by way of a share placing to finance the acquisition and to provide additional working capital. The acquisition gives Asstead a total of 273 outlets.

**Rates payable to Halifax non-resident and non-personal savers are advertised separately.**

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/03/99		
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	NET p.a. %
<b>HALIFAX INSTANT SAVER</b>					
£500+	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.75	3.80
£50+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
<b>HALIFAX PREMIUM SAVINGS DIRECT</b>					
£100,000+	6.25	6.25	5.75	5.75	4.60
£40,000+	6.10	6.10	5.60	5.60	4.48
£20,000+	5.90	5.90	5.40	5.40	4.32
£10,000+	5.80	5.80	5.30	5.30	4.24
Monthly Income Option					
£100,000+	6.25	6.08	5.75	5.60	4.48
£40,000+	6.10	5.94	5.60	5.46	4.37
£20,000+	5.90	5.75	5.40	5.27	4.22
£10,000+	5.80	5.65	5.30	5.18	4.14
<b>60 DAY GOLD</b>					
£100,000+	5.75	5.75	5.20	5.20	4.16
£50,000+	5.35	5.35	4.80	4.80	3.84
£25,000+	5.00	5.00	4.45	4.45	3.56
£10,000+	4.75	4.75	4.25	4.25	3.40
£5,000+	4.05	4.05	3.55	3.55	2.84
Monthly Income Option					
£100,000+	5.75	5.60	5.20	5.08	4.06
£50,000+	5.35	5.22	4.80	4.70	3.76
£25,000+	5.00	4.89	4.45	4.36	3.49
£10,000+	4.75	4.65	4.25	4.17	3.34
£5,000+	4.05	3.98	3.55	3.49	2.79
<b>SOLID GOLD</b>					
£50,000+	4.00	4.00	3.35	3.35	2.68
£25,000+	3.90	3.90	3.35	3.35	2.68
£10,000+	3.70	3.70	3.15	3.15	2.52
£5,000+	3.50	3.50	2.95	2.95	2.36
£500+	3.20	3.20	2.60	2.60	2.08
Monthly Income Option					
£50,000+	4.00	3.93	3.35	3.30	2.64
£25,000+	3.90	3.83	3.35	3.30	2.64
£10,000+	3.70	3.64	3.15	3.11	2.49
£5,000+	3.51	3.45	2.95	2.91	2.33
£500+	3.20	3.15	2.60	2.57	2.06
<b>LIQUID GOLD</b>					
£25,000+	2.90	2.90	2.20	2.20	1.76
£10,000+	2.80	2.80	2.20	2.20	1.76
£5,000+	2.70	2.70	2.10	2.10	1.68
£2,500+	2.60	2.60	2.00	2.00	1.60
£500+	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.00	1.60
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40
<b>ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>					
£50,000+	4.89	4.80	4.27	4.20	3.36
£25,000+	4.63	4.35	4.01	3.95	3.18
£10,000+	4.27	4.20	3.65	3.60	2.88
£5,000+	3.95	3.50	2.93	2.90	2.32
£1+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.80
<b>ADVANCE ISA</b>					
£500+	6.14	6.00	5.63	5.50	4.40
<b>Matured TESSA</b>	6.08	6.00	5.58	5.50	4.40
<b>YOUNG SAVERS: £1+</b>	4.50	4.50	4.00	4.00	3.20
<b>MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT</b>					
£10,000+	3.40	3.40	2.80	2.80	2.24
£2,000+	2.90	2.90	2.30	2.30	1.84
Monthly income					
£10,000+	3.40	3.35	2.80	2.75	2.21
£2,000+	2.90	2.86	2.30	2.28	1.82
<b>HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>					
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.20
Under 18's	4.59	4.50	4.07	4.00	3.25
Student	3.56	3.50	2.02	2.00	1.60
<b>CARD CASH</b> (incl. Expresscash customers)					
£50+	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.20
Under 18's £1+	4.55	4.50	4.04	4.00	3.20
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b> (Not available to new customers)					
<b>Special Reserve Bond</b>					
£10,000+	5.70	5.70	5.20	5.20	4.16

Prices shown do not include bonus, except where stated

ACCOUNT	CURRENT		RATES FROM 21.02.99			
	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER %	GROSS PA %	AER including Conditional Bonus*	NET PA %
<b>HALIFAX TESSA 2 Variable Rate</b>	<b>5.80</b>	<b>5.80</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>BONUS GOLD</b>						
£100,000+	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.50	5.30	3.60
£50,000+	4.65	4.65	4.15	4.15	5.3	3.32
£25,000+	4.35	4.35	3.85	3.85	4.85	3.3
£10,000+	4.30	4.30	3.75	3.75	4.75	3.00
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>						
£100,000+	5.00	4.89	4.50	4.41	-	3.53
£50,000+	4.65	4.55	4.15	4.07	-	3.25
£25,000+	4.35	4.27	3.85	3.73	-	2.62
£10,000+	4.30	4.22	3.75	3.69	-	2.55
<b>MONTHLY SAVER</b>						
£1+	3.42	3.40	2.91	2.90	5.04	2.32
<b>CLOSED ISSUES</b>						
(Not available to new customers)						
TESSA Gold	6.30	6.30	5.70	5.70	5.32	-
Halifax TESSA	5.75	5.75	5.25	5.25	4.07	-

**POINTS TO NOTE:** AEP stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year. Interest is paid every 12 months. The rate of income for January 2003 has been calculated unless you have completed a registration form and made a decision to proceed with Future Payments regulations. The real rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income for has been taken as the interest rate for the year shown. Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings customers who access their records as being under 21. If your savings or Current or Future Current Account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21. If you reside in Cardiff, under 18 or a student for Further Learning Accounts. Full account conditions and details of interest rates can be found on the website: [www.BESB.co.uk](http://www.BESB.co.uk) (0800 400 4000) or [www.BESB.co.uk](http://www.BESB.co.uk) (0800 400 4000). Some accounts are available from other banks/brokers.

BY MARTIN BARROW

Processes of the disposal will be used to further develop Glynwed's two core activities of pipe systems and consumer and food service products. The company may also extend its share buyback programme.

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# Tottenham kicks out future dividends

BY ROBERT LEA

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, the resurgent North London football club chasing potentially lucrative European action next year, told shareholders yesterday that they will not be getting any dividends for the foreseeable future.

Football's longest stock market quoted company, 41 per cent owned by the electronics multimillionaire Alan Sugar, said it would concentrate instead on reinvesting cash into the business in a bid to crank up its serially underperforming share price.

In the last financial year Spurs paid a total dividend of 0.75p, cut from 1p, which amounted to a payout of

£584,000. John Sedgwick, finance director, said previous dividend payments had been nothing more than a gesture and that ordinary shareholders had said the money would be better spent on facilities. In the six months to January 31, turnover, bolstered mainly by increasing gate receipts and television money, was up 20 per cent to £23.6 million. However, a 28 per cent uplift in playing staff wages, including that of George Graham, the new on-field team manager, plus the £4.2 million cost in the period of the gradual write-off of previous transfer fees, saw pre-tax profits come in at £4.1 million, up just 2 per cent.

Mr Sedgwick said Spurs's second-half results should be better than usual because of the club's runs in both the FA Cup and Worthington Cup. Sunderland, the trail-blazing leader of football's Nationwide first division, made pre-tax profits after player transfer costs of £435,000, a fall of 30 per cent, in the six months to November 30. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £9.8 million, boosted by average gates at the Stadium of Light of nearly 38,000, the fourth-best home gates in English football.

Preston North End, the AIM-listed, promotion-chasing second division football club, made interim losses of £421,000, similarly to the previous year, in the six months to December 31.



David Ginola, the Spurs winger

Sport, page 57

## US block sends Glaxo tumbling

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Glaxo Wellcome tumbled 4 per cent yesterday after US marketing approval for the company's new influenza treatment was unexpectedly blocked.

An advisory committee to the US Food and Drug Administration voted 14-3 against recommending Relenza for approval because of doubts about the drug's effectiveness. Glaxo Wellcome has not abandoned hope of winning FDA approval, but its chances look slim.

Nigel Barnes, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "It's a significant setback. In trying to overturn a 14-3 vote, [Glaxo] may be

swimming in treacle." The shares fell 82p to £20.66.

Glaxo received its first European approval for Relenza two weeks ago. The drug was forecast to have annual sales of up to £375 million by 2002.

Claims that Relenza shortened recovery times by up to two and a half days were not borne out by the 770-patient US trial, which was much larger than the studies conducted in Europe and Australia.

The setback caused a 52 per cent collapse in the share price of Biota Holdings, the Australian biotechnology company that originally developed Relenza.

Sarah Cunningham on Kingfisher's move out of town

## The wonder of Woolies

When the first large out-of-town Woolworths opens its doors at Kinnaird on the outskirts of Edinburgh later this year, customers will find something that bears little resemblance to the usual high street Woolies.

The store will be three times as large as the largest existing Woolworths. Also, it will bring together merchandise from all the other UK stores within the Kingfisher group — B&Q, Comet and Superdrug. This means that people will be able to get toys, children's clothes, videos, televisions, DIY equipment and toiletries from one store.

There are plans for the store to incorporate a Burger King outlet as well.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, likes to make the point that what binds the group together is that all its formats serve the needs of the home and family. The big new Woolworths — which may be called Big W, although no decision has been taken on its name yet — will serve the



Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy is keen that the new store should serve all home and family needs

home and family needs under the one roof.

Last year Kingfisher announced it intended to open about 50 new branches of Woolworths. Considering that it already has nearly 800 stores, this is quite ambitious. Most of the new stores are likely to be similar to those found in the high street already, 15-20,000 sq ft in size. However, the company does

intend to develop some larger branches, such as the one at Kinnaird. Kingfisher is in talks with property developers about finding new sites, although difficulties over planning permission are bound to arise. The Kinnaird store, which the company insists is experimental, has the advantage of being on the site of an old, redundant B&Q.

Large discount stores do

not have a great history in the UK. Sainsbury's Savacentres are being turned into giant food stores after failing to live up to customer expectations. Those with reasonably long memories will recall Woolco, the out-of-town food and clothing superstores that Kingfisher — then still called Woolworth Holdings — sold in 1986. The new out-of-town Woolworths will not have

food, which could prove a disadvantage. "They are going to have trouble getting the footfall, people coming week in, week out, without food," Richard Hyman of Verdict, the retail consultancy, said.

Kingfisher is sensitive to the suggestion that the Kinnaird store is a pre-emptive strike against Wal-Mart, which is rumoured to be contemplating establishing a presence in Britain. The American discount retailer, the largest retail company in the world, has begun a move into Europe, and could be looking at Britain.

Costco, another US discount chain, now has seven stores in the UK and is hoping to expand, although planning laws mean it is likely to happen only slowly. Costco also sells food. Asda, which is also seen as possible UK target for Wal-Mart — and Kingfisher talked briefly of a merger last year, and the idea has never entirely gone away. Although there will be no food on offer, a visit to Kinnaird, once the store is open, will give a flavour of what the two might have come up with.

## Boeing to consider closures

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

BOEING has indicated that it may close down a number of its airline production lines in a major shake-up because 10 per cent of its equity is invested in loss-making activities.

Phil Condit, Boeing chairman, said: "There are no sacred cows. Every single programme we've got is under scrutiny." The move, to be supervised by Deborah Hopkins, the new finance director, is aimed at stemming the downward slide of the world's biggest aerospace group after a production shutdown 18 months ago.

Ms Hopkins said the MD11 aircraft had been taken out of production because its costs were not matched by market potential. She said: "We will fix or eliminate any programmes that are not creating value. In future, there will be zero tolerance of value destruction."

Ms Hopkins was recently hired from General Motors to boost Boeing's credibility with investors. After the dramatic share price decline last year, some shareholders blamed Boeing's top executives for the production bottlenecks.



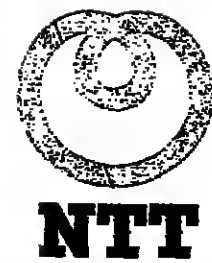
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# Equities come off highs

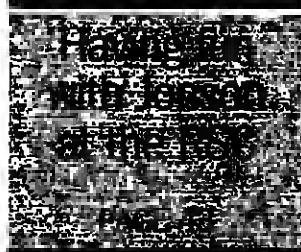
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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
122	120	Asahi Breweries	122	+0.03	3.2	12.5	122	120	Asahi Breweries	122	+0.03	3.2	12.5	122	120	Asahi Breweries	122	+0.03	3.2	12.5
118	116	Daewoo Breweries	118	+0.02	3.5	11.8	118	116	Daewoo Breweries	118	+0.02	3.5	11.8	118	116	Daewoo Breweries	118	+0.02	3.5	11.8
114	112	Heineken	114	+0.01	3.8	11.2	114	112	Heineken	114	+0.01	3.8	11.2	114	112	Heineken	114	+0.01	3.8	11.2
110	108	Interbrew	110	+0.02	4.0	10.5	110	108	Interbrew	110	+0.02	4.0	10.5	110	108	Interbrew	110	+0.02	4.0	10.5
106	104	Kaiser Brewery	106	+0.01	4.2	9.8	106	104	Kaiser Brewery	106	+0.01	4.2	9.8	106	104	Kaiser Brewery	106	+0.01	4.2	9.8
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82	80	Unilever	82	+0.01	5.8	5.8	82	80	Unilever	82	+0.01	5.8	5.8	82	80	Unilever	82	+0.01	5.8	5.8
78	76	Wm. A. Perry	78	+0.01	6.0	5.2	78	76	Wm. A. Perry	78	+0.01	6.0	5.2	78	76	Wm. A. Perry	78	+0.01	6.0	5.2
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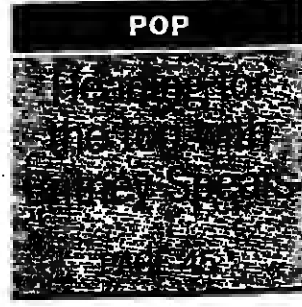
## THEATRE



## THE TIMES

## ARTS

## POP



## Ready and willing

What sets English Touring Opera apart from all those other small-scale companies popping up like mushrooms after a storm is the quality of preparation. None of the singers in ETO's new production of Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Arts Theatre is heading straight for La Scala (yet), the orchestra numbers just 27 and the chorus 14, but you know that just about everyone on or off the stage is performing to the very height of his or her capability.

The music director, Andrew Greenwood, has a natural feel for early Verdi, for the music's swagger and dash as well as its occasional inwardness. He and his band relish the special "colour" of this score, the shrieking piccolos, lowering low woodwind, howling brass,

## OPERA



and he declines to show any embarrassment at the jauntier moments: when Verdi's witches sing about the weather, they can sound dangerously like General Stanley's daughters. Greenwood shrugs this off, goes for it, and judges the big-boned climaxes perfectly. On its own terms this is a thrilling musical performance.

Most importantly, Greenwood is always considerate of his singers, coaxing them into phrasing musically and imaginatively. Anthony Marber (*Macbeth*) has a light, high baritone but he was never tempted to force. Instead he exploited his feel for long, Italianate line and for the meaning of words (Andrew Porter's translation is used). Sarah Rhodes's Lady is simply fearless in her assault on runs, coloratura and top notes, and just as impressive in the quieter moments.

She, Marber and Greenwood handle the Murder Duet with great insight, but just how far a soprano should come off the centre of the notes in the Sleepwalking Scene in the interests of dramatic verisimilitude is a matter for debate. Henry Waddington is a decent, stolid Banquo, but someone might remind the two tenors that less noise can pay dividends even in early Verdi.

Plain sets (Nathalie Gibbs), operatic-medieval costumes (Dinah Collin) — it all looks a bit village-hally, and sometimes sounds it as well. The producer, Robert Chevara, is fine when dealing with the principals but less sure with crowds and apparitions. Musically, though, audiences on ETO's tour are in for a treat.

RODNEY MILNES

Finland's Lahti Symphony Orchestra is bringing Sibelius to Birmingham. John Allison profiles a remarkable band



In a field of its own: the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä's leadership is celebrating its 50th birthday with the construction of a brand-new lakeside concert hall in its native Finland

## Tundra rolls in from the East

It is a common enough expression, but coming from a Finn it carries extra meaning: Osmo Vänskä talks of a "snowball effect" when describing the phenomenal story of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. There can hardly be a more appropriate way of recounting what has happened in this quiet Finnish city over the past decade.

Though the orchestra has become famous through its series of ground-breaking and award-winning Sibelius recordings on the BIS label, few outside Finland have heard it live. But it takes another step towards international recognition this weekend with its British debut: a weekend of Sibelius concerts in Birmingham.

This should be a significant year for the Lahti Symphony Orchestra. Apart from celebrating its 50th birthday, it is also due to move into a brand new concert hall. Construction is being supported, as ever in Finland, by generous funding, but approval from the city council came by an extremely narrow margin, as Lahti's high unemployment rate means many other priorities too. The lakeside Sibelius Hall has been designed entirely in wood as the flagship of Finnish wood-building skills, and boasts the same acoustical consultants as Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

There are, perhaps, other parallels with Birmingham. Although the City of Birmingham

Symphony Orchestra was much less provincial than its Lahti counterpart, both bands were transformed by conductors who simultaneously made their own careers while on the job. Very different from Simon Rattle in temperament, the more introverted Vänskä has achieved a no less stunning makeover of his orchestra, which he first conducted soon after winning the International Young Conductors' Competition in Besançon in 1982. He became principal guest conductor in 1985 and music director three years later, but even then would have been surprised by a glimpse into the future.

"Of course I wanted to build something," says Vänskä, now in his mid-forties. "But it was a dream, certainly not reality. If someone had told me ten years ago what would happen, I'd have laughed." Authoritative on the podium but self-effacing in conversation, he stresses the way in which his fortunes have been linked to those of the orchestra — "If I have learnt anything about my job, they have been very good teachers" — but is reluctant to offer an easy recipe for such success.

"Work is the best advice I can give — and it's taken time. It's been a step-by-step process in which no one really knew where we were going, but everyone was ready to give their best. Other than that, one needs patience, ideas about

the music, and the keys to open psychological locks.

"An orchestra also needs to be humble enough to accept that it has to work, and not all orchestras are. Our orchestra knows that even if something went well in a concert, the next morning we have to start again from zero."

Vänskä may have built his and the orchestra's reputation on Sibelius, but he has broadened the Lahti repertoire considerably and cultivated a distinctive sound. The strings have a warm, soft-grained tone, well suited to Romantic music, and the orchestra is currently progressing through its first Bruckner cycle.

Vänskä says: "In the past there's been too much German music, so in recent seasons I've done a lot of British composers. And people forget that there are Finnish composers other than Sibelius. We've recorded everyone from Crussell to Lindberg and Aho. If Finnish orchestras don't do Finnish music, who will?"

"I believe there's a lot of good music out there that didn't go down well because the premiere was badly played. The risk with contemporary works is that if they are not rehearsed properly, the audience will not like them and they'll disappear."

Vänskä knows both sides of orchestral life, having been principal clarinet in the Turku

and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestras before studying conducting. He has held chief conductorships of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta and, since 1996, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and he is now one of the many Finnish conductors making their mark on the musical world, a number out of all proportion to such a small country.

"I think the basic reason has to be Sibelius. Finnish conductors have been invited all over

the world to do him, and though he is not necessarily the reason for their success, he could be the starting point. That first invitation might not always have come if it were not for Finnish music.

"Compare us with Sweden — there are no major Swedish composers and far fewer Swedish conductors."

The composer will be the focus of this weekend's series of concerts and talks, titled *Sibelius: the Creative Process*. Highlights will be the neglected

tone poem *The Wood Nymph*, the original and revised editions of the Fifth Symphony, and the first British performance of the original version of the Violin Concerto, given with special permission of the Sibelius family.

Vänskä is undoubtedly one of the leading interpreters of the composer today, a conductor whose vigorous approach to his music has underlined Sibelius's modernity rather than his roots in the 19th-century Russian tradition. Yet he does

not deny them. "Because of our history we don't like these Russian influences, but we are neighbours, we do have connections and we have to accept that our culture is linked. But to me he is one of the most original composers in history, the deepest of our century's symphonists. He was very contemporary for his time, but still spoke to ordinary people."

● The Lahti Symphony Orchestra is at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, (0121-212 3333) tomorrow and Sunday

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THE TIMES

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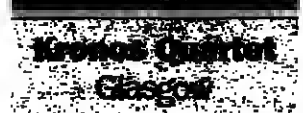
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SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S SECOND TOKEN

CHANGING TIMES

## Wrong way traffic

## CONCERTS



TOWARDS the end of the exotic *Song of the Beggars* by the Korean composer Myo Shin Na there is a distinct allusion to *Der Leiermann*, the last song in Schubert's *Winterreise* cycle. That would seem a good example of the influence of European music on another culture. But there it was, together with several items like it, in a concert presented by the BBC as part of a week of events designed to illustrate the movement of the traffic in precisely the opposite direction.

Well, if you are thinking of promoting a *Beyond our Shores* festival in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the Kronos Quartet is available, there is no point in being too academic about it. If the Kronos Quartet is offering the first performance of parts of a Philip Glass film score so new that it is still unfinished and so newsworthy that the title of the film cannot be revealed, you do not turn it down. The

feeling that we have heard it all before and the suspicion that it would be little different whatever the film are risks evidently worth taking. And Alfred Schnittke's Second String Quartet was very welcome even though middle-period Bartók should by historical rights have been in its place and the cross-cultural influence is no more than that of Russian Orthodox music on Russian chamber music.

The first half of the Kronos Quartet concert featured pieces from no fewer than seven nationalities, which was both highly entertaining and a little disappointing. Portuguese guitar music by Carlos Paredes, Argentinean tango tunes for bandoneon by Anibal Troilo, *Gloomy Sunday* in a version for Hungarian gypsy band by Rezzo Seress: it all seemed very colourful in prospect but, arranged in each case by Osvaldo Golijov, it all sounded very Kronos. Conceived from the first for string quartet, Aleksandra Vrebalov's *Panonia* and Frangiz Al-Zadeh's *Oz* are both more authentic examples of cultural fusion, and therefore more interesting, despite being too long.

In the midst of all this, the effect of the first performance of Terry Riley's *Correjo Fanebre en el Monte Diablo* was exotic to an extreme. Written for synthesizers as well as the Kronos strings, it is an extraordinary mixture of simulated and natural sounds with a bizarre yet irresistible fascination.

GERALD LARNER

## Three parts of his sum



AT THE risk of appearing jacks of all trades and maesters of none, today's conductors seem compelled to prove themselves musicians of many parts. Michael Tilson Thomas and Esa-Pekka Salonen show off their composing flair: Osmo Vänskä wields his clarinet. And Lorin Maazel is flourishing baton, bow and manuscript in the course of his three concerts this week with the London Symphony Orchestra.

First the bow. It led the way as Maazel the violinist strode on stage, ahead of his timid and obedient conductor, Wolfgang Gleron. Together they faced the first of Bartók's *Two Portraits* — of a violinist with whom the Hungarian composer was infatuated in his youth. As it is her "celestial and inward" qualities which are celebrated here, the music introduces the soloist gently.

Although the violin is silent for only a few moments of brief woodwind glory, it is musicianship rather than technique which is on trial here, as

a single motif is spun into song, then woven into the subtlest of contrapuntal textures with the orchestral strings. Maazel captured Bartók's severe melancholy in a sentient performance.

And now for Maazel the composer. The centrepiece of the evening was the British premiere of his single-movement *Music for Violin and Orchestra*. Maazel has indicated seven sections within its 20 minutes: but, on a first hearing, there seem to be far more, so capricious is this episodic frieze of moods and effects.

Ideas — mischievous, sentimental, violent, vulgar — are flung between every section of the orchestra to no particular structural or expressive purpose: there is much fiddling while Rome never quite burns. And then the cadenza. Here, Maazel really does put himself through his paces and, with more than a nod to Bartók's homeland, invades the cimbalom to join him. Seated at his scarlet and gold keyboard, hammers poised, Cyril Dupuy nervously awaited his cue, and then contributed a disappointingly meagre wash of that distinctively aqueous, coppery sound. After this came a "rainforest" of orchestral activity, calming the soloist to a first and last point of repose.

Maazel's skill really is more recreative than creative: and this was proved in a brilliantly executed solo performance of his own witty orchestration of Kreisler's *Gypsy Caprice*.

HILARY FINCH



# The millennium? We're all mad for it

Yet again mankind has pulled it off. We have notched up some formidable successes in our time on this planet, haven't we? Inventing language, splitting the atom, flying to the Moon, assembling an Ikea wardrobe. But this year we faced the ultimate challenge: what to do about the millennium. We knew it was the Big One. We knew it mattered. We just didn't know why. Or how. Or even (to pedantic minds, at least) when.

Well, readers, I have been working night and day for more than half an hour to answer those questions. I have surfed the Net, trawled the libraries, scanned the press, quizzed the experts, and cruised the Common (but that's another story, and anyway they stole my wallet). My conclusion? Mankind has triumphed again! The cynics said the millennium would be meaningless — but human ingenuity has proved them wrong.

What I most like about the millennium jollies announced so far is

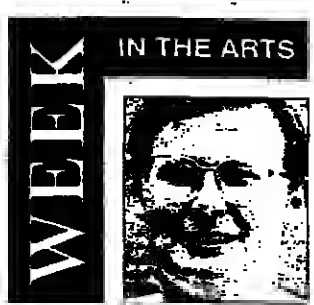
how well they fit national stereotypes. Only in California, for instance, would you expect to find a two-day party for 2.5 million revelers, ending with the firing of 2,000 rifles (upwards, one hopes) at midnight on December 31. And surely only the French would dare to decree a truly Napoleonic project to plant an 800-mile row of trees in a straight line along the Paris meridian from Dunkirk to the Spanish border — and tough luck on anyone whose vineyard stands in the way. *Toute la France* will then picnic next to the young saplings on Bastille Day next year. What larks!

This, however, is not France's grandest millennial wheeze. It also has a plan to launch a satellite that will carry good wishes to our descendants in the 521st century, for the satellite will be programmed to return to Earth in 50,000 years' time. Rather like sending a post-

card home from the Dordogne.

The Germans, of course, are taking the concept of *Vorsprung durch Technik* into the new century: their main millennium offering is "the biggest trade fair of all time". Be still, my beating heart. As for the Swiss, they have decided — with hair-splitting calendrical exactitude — that as a "nation of accurate clockmakers" they will begin their millennial celebrations a year after everybody else, on January 1, 2001. Gosh, that's so... Swiss.

What of Britain? My dears, your bosoms should swell with pride, for we undoubtedly lead the world in the Barrow Millennium Ideas department. The magnificent absurdity of this global knees-up clearly strikes a chord deep in that part of our national psyche which compelled us to build railways up the Khyber Pass, invent cricket, and go out in the midday sun. The crazy-



RICHARD MORRISON

er the tea-party, the more we enjoy playing the Mad Hatter.

And you don't even need to go to Greenwich to experience British potness at its best. No, the beauty of the Government's Millennium Festival is that, as the Culture Secretary Chris Smith says, mad ideas

are right on your doorstep! Well, he doesn't quite say that. But he did sound jolly proud of the 1,149 millennium projects for which he announced funding this week.

Quite right too. The list makes the mouth water: £25,000 for a play celebrating the "aspirations of the people of Dagenham"; £29,000 to assemble "exciting visuals" for a show called *The Changing Face of Luton*; £25,000 to pay for people to fly kites in Herefordshire; £25,000 for a "dance in the workplace" project (book your sick leave now); £25,000 for a "psycho-geographical map of Sussex"; £28,000 to place a 2,000ft canvas on the bed of the Thames in order to capture the "flotsam and jetsam of the last tide of 1999" ... and so on, up to the jaw-dropping sum of £100 million. Money well spent? Not everybody thinks so, you will be staggeringly unsurprised to learn. The pro-

fessional arts world is particularly scornful: the money used to commission one "psycho-geographical map", it is pointed out, could have saved a regional theatre from going dark. Does Britain really need 8,000 miles of eco-friendly cycleways? Does every village hall in the land need a luxurious rebuild? Isn't this parochialism run riot?

Of course. In fact one Essex council has so many millennium ideas that it has set up a website to tell the world's cyber-nerds about them. My anorak quirk trembled with excitement as I clicked on to the Kelvedon Embroidery Project. I can tell you.

But what's wrong with a celebration of parochialism, if it rekindles those estimable virtues of local pride, home-grown wit and civic-centricity? Croydon wants to spend £4 million lighting its skyline after

dark? Go for it, you crazy Croydon dudes! Manhattan must be quaking at the prospect of such glamorous competition. Bury St Edmunds wants to finish building its cathedral? Admirable. At 500 years, it has been a long job, even by the standards of British builders.

Only one thing worries me. Will there be anyone available to enjoy all these millennium projects? After all, thousands of us will be tied up in putting the events on. Many more will be spending new year crouched nervously over computers that could "bug out" disastrously. Or we will be earning hundreds of pounds as waiters. Or we will be drunk. Or we will be sofed up with the whole global-party thing that we will have retired to bed early, preferably in congenial company.

Whatever, we won't be available to attend such delights as *The Changing Face of Luton*. So if you think that you might be able to fulfil the important role of Spectator to the Millennium, do write to Chris Smith, won't you? You may well qualify for a grant.

## Wild, grotesque — fair enough

When I saw Laurence Boswell's revival of Jonson's most ebullient comedy at Stratford in 1997, I fancied I had been plunged into the Malibu parish of the Benidorm district of the Blackpool region of what, since giant puppets wearing devil-masks came carousing on to the stage, must be Rio. But now that the RSC has moved the production south, I realised I understood.

With Newcastle United shirts, garish yellow tweed and plenty of atmospheric sleaze added to the Hawaiian blouses and baseball caps, the geographic mix also includes St James' Park, red-light Amsterdam and a Scots theme park for gullible tourists. No, this is not the grimy Smithfield where Jonson set his play nor even the festive Smithfield that gave our ancestors a smaller version of our own Notting Hill Carnival.

Does it matter? Well, I have seen productions that achieved period consistency and a documentary sense of place without sacrificing too much fun. Moreover, the attempts of Boswell's cast to be vivid and hilarious still get overenthusiastic. They do catch the comic munificence, the exuberance and subversive gleam that made Jonson Jonson.

All that occurs is that a batch of well-to-do citizens — ranging from dimwits to romantic young bloods, crusading puritans to repressed wives — wander among the traders, tarts, pimps, pickpockets and madmen of Bartholomew Fair and receive what Jonson regarded as a salutary shake-up. They are like parti-

cles thrust into a highly unstable physical field. Ids are released, anarchy is unleashed.

Gentlewomen become tropes, hypocrites are exposed. The respectable recognise that they belong to a lascivious, bawling, sweaty species — or, as Jonson puts it, see they are "but Adam, flesh and blood". That remark is addressed to the officious JP Overdo — John Quayle, wetly disguised in an outfit that would have embarrassed Harpo Marx — who is trying to sleuth out and punish "enormity". But it applies with even more force to David Henry's Zeal-



of-the-land Busy, a big, slobbering cultmaster whose noisy attack on the theatre ends up humiliatingly bested by an articulate, argumentative puppet in a Punch and Judy show.

Boswell's cast can, as I say, be faulted for being too febrile. But when you are watching Carol Macready's massive,

greasy pig-seller, or Owen Sharpe as a slimy grinning pickpocket in a sub-Capone suit, or Rob Edwards as a louche gallant with five days' stubble and a hangover that means he cannot raise his own voice without pain, or Gavin Muir as the busybodying male nanny to a lad who would make Aguecheek seem Mensa material — well, you marvel at the energy, pacey timing and feeling for the grotesque the RSC can generate.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Fierce sting in the tales

THIS brazenly macabre show is back in London for two months and should be seen by anyone with a fondness for gruesome tales, falsest to singing, Victorian melodrama, stage trickery, puppets and vivid illustrations of the dangers of thumb-sucking.

It derives from Dr Heinrich Hoffmann's celebrated book, originally titled *Struwwelpeter* and firmly kept away from the impressionable young when I was a child. What it did not know then was that Dr H had intended his verses and pictures to be funny. Michael Morris from Cultural Industry grasped this essential truth, as did Phe-lim McDermott and Julian Crouch from Improbable Theatre, and the astonishing Martin Jacques, accordionist and singer of *The Tiger Lillies*.

It is the unearthly voice of Jacques that haunts the show.



His singing combines a grainy sweetness with a powerful delivery, far stronger than falsest voices normally manage. Add to this an impressively gentle face and a sense of innocent world-weariness and you have a unique and unforgettable presence.

But this is not all. The warning tales are introduced by the similarly weird Julian Bleach, a lank-haired, lantern-jawed actor of the (very) old school, who gazes at us with a baleful eye, rolls his tongue around the words and prances across the tiny stage like a spider crab on acid.

This stage, recreating a Victorian toy theatre, is equipped

with 12 major doors and ten smaller ones, through which the variously doomed characters flit, accompanied by cut-out furniture, and puppets large and small.

Tamzin Griffin's Harriet, for example, who fatally plays with matches, lifts up her dress to reveal orange and red petticoats which she flutters into flame-like agitation before disappearing behind them through a trap, leaving just her button boots behind.

The ambivalent image of Shockheaded Peter, unloved child yet somehow a wrongdoer, lurks throughout, piercing the floor with his uncut fingernails, and eventually bursting through the facade, to stare at us in silent accusation — one of this award-winning show's multitude of serio-comic and unsettling moments.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Fair casting: Stephen Boxer, Poppy Miller, Carol Macready, Kevork Malikyan, John Quayle, Gavin Muir and Mark Hadfield

## Child's play

In 1926 e.e. cummings wrote: "From a thousand adjectives which fairly clamour for a chance to describe the Great American Mentality, there immediately stands forth one. Infante."

A form of that infantilism is strikingly on display in Robert Falls's nightmarish, expressionist 50th-anniversary production of *Death of a Salesman* at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, and not just in Kevin Anderson's sullen Biff and Ted Koch's puppyish Happy. Falls links their emotional immaturity to Brian Dennehy's burly, vulnerable Willy Loman, who has never adapted his adolescent dreams to reality. He is jarringly called "kid" by younger men, and even Elizabeth Franz's patient Linda says "You are such a boy."

The production, from Chicago's Goodman Theatre, makes more of the Lomans' psychological dysfunction than of the overfamiliar plight of workers discarded by society. The first sound one hears is not the delicate flute that the playwright Arthur Miller describes, but rather a cacophony inside Willy's head: the roaring car engines of the salesman's life compete with the jungle

## NEW YORK THEATRE

drums, heralding brother Ben's success.

Like a buffalo lost from its herd, Dennehy's Willy trudges around Mark Wendland's spare furnishings, isolated in a sprawling inkiness. Dennehy alternates convincingly between Willy's go-getting fantasies and a piercing self-doubt, but there is equal poignancy in Franz's portrait of a woman agonised by the quarrels of her brood.

Howard Witt's neighbour Charley, kind and witty deadpan, is the ideal father figure, but surely Happy should not be more muscular than Biff? And Richard Thompson as the bookish Bernard should not tower over both Anderson and Koch, playing athletes. Such quibbles aside, the production confirms Miller's masterpiece as a peak of modern drama.

At the Ambassador Theatre is a different sort of triumph. The 1957 off-Broadway musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, based on the *Peanuts* characters, was just a series of vignettes punctuated by serviceable songs.



Brian Dennehy in Miller's *Death of a Salesman*

Is it the director, Michael Mayer, then, who has spun the sheer enchantment in this revival? He is certainly helped by Roger Bart's loopy Snoopy, singing a Jolsonesque paean to supernine and joining Kristin Chenoweth's prickly Sally on a hunt for rabbits to the *James Bond* theme. Anthony Rapp in a bad haircut makes a perfect put-upon hero, and B.D. Wong's Linus partners his own blanket in an Astaireish duet. A show to tickle both children and adults.

EDWARD KARAM

## Peer pressure in black and white

ROY WILLIAMS'S new play is uncomfortable viewing in more ways than one. A single row of benches surrounds an eye-level concrete platform in the rough-and-ready Stage Space. The audience glance coyly across at each other, when they are not being blinded by a bank of megawatt lights. Paper planes are launched at them by an actor perched on a gantry.

But the circle of intimate collusion created by the no-frills set suits the naked intensity of Williams's writing. *Lift Off* is an attack on the pressures to conform faced by deprived kids. Not to conform to their parents' ways — this is about peer pressure in the playground and on the council estate, the skewed prestige of violence, petty crime, under-age sex and racial intolerance.

The action cuts between the experiences of two friends at primary school and in late adolescence. Mal is black, a cocksure kid turned fight-picking thug. Tone is white but wishes he wasn't: he looks up to his friend, apes his speech, envies his success with girls. It is girls



who threaten to tear them apart: first Tone's younger sister Carol, who seduces Mal and gets herself pregnant, then Hannah, who preys on Tone's sexual frustration by inciting him to racist attacks on Mal to prove his virility.

The characters and dialogue, all schoolboy insults and clubland putdowns, mostly ring true, and there is enough humour to make these two hard men curiously sympathetic. Mal is intriguingly complex: aggressive and proud, he is also haunted by memories of Rich, the sensitive loner who takes his life after the two bully him for rejecting violence. Rich is the paper-plane maker: it is a symbol of his desire to lift himself above his background. Where Tone blindly follows, Mal is intelligent enough to see in Rich a better way — but callow enough to reject it in favour of loyalty only to his desires.

The cast, capably directed by Indhu Rubasingham, do justice to Williams's script. Ashley Chin, Sid Mitchell and Mohammed George exude confidence as the young friends. Michael Prince and Alex Walkinshaw are convincingly callous as the older Mal and Tone. Laura Sadler and Sarah Cakebread are given less to work with, but make the most of the girls' parts.

The script occasionally falls back on cliché — perhaps unavoidably, since it deals with the suffocating inevitability of social stereotypes. But this is entertainingly combative stuff.

NIGEL CLIFF

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Luton City Centre

John Major 150



## LISTINGS

## Wuthering Heights staged

## ARTS

## Chieftains get their girls

## RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

## LONDON

**MAHLER AND VIENNA.** The Philharmonia Orchestra embarks on the second leg of its series with a look at the legacy left by German Romanticism to the composers of the Second Viennese School. *Clara from Haydn's The Creation* is followed by Schoenberg's monodrama *Erwartung*, sung by mezzo-soprano Helen, and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Chesham von Dohnanyi conducts. Festival Hall (0171-680 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (S)

**IBERIA.** The award-winning British pianist Martin Jones tackles the four complete books of Isaac Albéniz's



Hildegard Behrens sings Schoenberg in London

complex and technically challenging piano impressions. *Requiem* (0171-680 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

**EL QUIJOTE.** Start of the Gate's new season. David Johnson's new adaptation of Cervantes, directed by Maria Montoya. Gate Theatre (0171-229 0708). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**GLASGOW.** Scottish premiere for Justin West's *A Night at the Chinese Opera*. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Andrew Parrott is joined by a fine cast of singers for this colourful and exotic drama set in the time of Kubli Khan. Part of BBC Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* series. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

**LEEDS.** Malcolm Sutherland directs his new version of *Wuthering Heights*. Elisabeth Dermot Walsh and Chook Striban play the lovers. Quays (0113-213 7700). Preview from tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

**LIVERPOOL.** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra continues its Richard Strauss celebrations. Liber Pesek conducts the composer's Don Juan followed by Baroque for Piano with Gabriela Ortiz as soloist. Suffolk's *Asolo* Symphony, the performance of which won Pesek his position with the RLO ten years ago, ends proceedings. Philharmonic Hall (0151-703 3761). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (S)

**WARWICK.** Inspired champions of new music, the Kinnear Quartet, continue to make complex compositions accessible in a programme featuring a new Philip Glass preceded by pieces by Steve Reich and Alfred Schnittke. Arts Centre (01203 524534). Tonight, 8pm. (S)

## NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only if some seats available. Seats at all prices

**BARFACED CHICK.** Fascinating Acts play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time *Clarke Peters* directs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). (S)

**THE GREEN SNAKE.** Mark Gaudin's interpretation of Goethe's story *The Green Snake* and the *Beautiful Lily*, done with puppets and, of course, music. Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111).

**THE MUALAS.** Irish all-girl sextet singing to bring harmony, hilarity and a sharp look at humanity. Drill Hall (0171-637 8270).

**SHOCKED PETER.** The Schoenman is back wonderfully premier show by the Cultural Industry Unit with the Tiger Lillies and Marilyn Jacques's *Salvage* speech. See review, page 45. Lyric (0181-741 8701). (S)

**DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN.** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing

the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-494 5070).

**HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN PIGS FLY.** Old-fashioned hit comedy about putting on a musical revue: emphasis on Irish costumes and difficult complex compositions. Arts Theatre (0171-936 3334).

**HOWIE THE ROCKIE.** Mark O'Rourke's nightmare account of Dublin's vicious underworld. Mica Fintushel directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shuebs. Bush (0181-743 3388).

**COPENHAGEN.** Heisenberg calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyable intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blumkin directs. Dorchest (0171-694 5070).

**TALK OF THE CITY.** Stephen Polakoff's potentially fascinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart. Young Vic (0171-928 6333). (S)

## FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

## NEW RELEASES

**THE THIN RED LINE (15).** A glorious cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Torrance Melick's first film for 20 years is an artistic masterpiece. With Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Nick Nolte.

**YOU GOT MAIL (PG).** Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

**PAINTED ANGELS (15).** Break period piece about the prostitutes who serviced the frontiersmen of the Wild West. A joyless plot between the smelly punters and the drab wooden rooms by Jon Sanders.

**TITANIC TOWN (15).** Julie Walters recalls as a pugnacious Catholic housewife in this gem review of Northern Ireland's Troubles era 1972. Roger Michell directs.

**PERDITA DURANGO (18).** Rose Perez and Javier Bardem are two Tex-Mex psychopaths who run amok on a endless road movie involving yodas, frozen forests and drugs. Alar de la Iglesia directs.

**URBAN LEGEND (18).** Drew James Blanks' horror flick that slashes

through an American campus with the help of a migraine-inducing orchestra.

## CURRENT

**APPLICATION (15).** Paul Schrader's brilliant story of a frustrated small-town cop, Nick Nolte and James Coburn put in powerful performances as father and son caught in a cycle of male violence.

**THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18).** David Krumholtz's comedy charts the mess of a modern couple's relationship. With Kathy Bates, Jennifer Esposito, Douglas Henshall, Jennifer Scott, Catherine McCormack and Ian Hart.

**HOLY MAN (PG).** Eddie Murphy's naive spiritual guru and Jeff Goldblum's sleazy TV evangelist team up to sell inferior products on a shopping channel. Director Stephen Herek flogs the satire rather less than the comedy.

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG).** Roberto Benigni's romantic *Second World War* tale makes a devastating comedy into the Holocaust. Superbly acted and the comic treatment of the struggle to survive in a death camp is at best naïveté.



Shall we join the ladies? Paddy Maloney with the Chieftains — every track on the Chieftains' new album features a different female lead singer

## Take your partners

Ireland's Chieftains have teamed up with the ladies for their new album, Nigel Williamson reports

Paddy Maloney is ready for all the jokes about beauty and the beast. For more than 30 years his band the Chieftains have enjoyed an unrivalled reputation as Ireland's best-loved traditional group, but they have never exactly been pin-ups. Now, thanks to a collaboration with the Corrs, currently the glossiest stars in the pop firmament, the Celtic veterans look set to enjoy their first hit single in a career which began before the band's

play with them, Andrea Corr says. "Paddy rang us in LA and we were very surprised," Jim Corr explains. "He sent us a tape of the song and asked us to do it. We were a bit suspicious, but when we got a feel for his ideas, we knew it would work."

The single, set for release in May, comes from *Tears of Stone*, the Chieftains' new album, which features not only the Corrs but a different female vocalist on every track, from American folk-rockers Joni Mitchell and Natalie Merchant to little-known singers from Norway and Japan.

As Ireland's foremost musical ambassadors, the Chieftains are no strangers to star-studded collaborations. In recent years they have been to Nashville to record with Willie Nelson and other country legends. Such luminaries as the Rolling Stones and Tom Jones guested on their *Long Black Veil* album, and Maloney's fertile musical imagination has seen them trawling the world to play with local musicians from the Cuban *barrios* to the Great Wall of China.

This ceaseless experimentation has led to debate within the Chieftains camp about straying too far from their roots. "When Paddy comes up

with another madcap idea, I say, 'When are the Chieftains going to make an Irish traditional album?'" Matt Molloy, the band's flautist, remarked last year. "He's right," admits Ma-

loney. "Although you have to remember in the past we did record about 20 traditional albums. But the new record will be called *The Chieftains in Ireland*. The plan is to travel the country and highlight different styles of Irish music. There is such diversity. Kerry is different from Clare, and Donegal is different again. It will be a primer of Irish styles and it's about time we did something like that again."

In the meantime, no one but the most blinkered purist is going to object to *Tears of Stone*, a seductive album in which the Chieftains' magnificent authentic playing provides the perfect backdrop for a series of stunning voices. The album was finally finished last November when Bonnie Raitt flew to Dublin to record the last track. Sheryl Crow had wanted to add her voice, too, but Maloney had already missed so many deadlines as the project expanded that he had to declare the book closed. "It was three years in the making and I started calling it the grandmas' album because we took so long," he jokes. "Joni Mitchell had promised us a song and we had to wait to find a slot in her diary. Then, when I thought we had almost finished, I met Natalie Merchant totally by accident in the pub in my little village in Wicklow. She was playing in Dublin. I saw her show and had to have her on the record. She was free the next day and we recorded her in two takes."

With the exception of Mitchell's composition *Magdalene Laundries*, all of the repertoire was suggested to the singers by Maloney. "You have to pick songs that suit the voice. I always said I would never do *Danny Boy*, for example. It's been done so many times. Then I started thinking about voices that could bring something fresh to it. I thought of

Aretha Franklin but then I thought of the jazz singer Diana Krall and she definitely found a new way of doing it."

Some of the more far-flung contributions are among the most interesting. "With Aidoo Yano from Japan I wanted to explore the common strands of Eastern and Celtic music. I composed the music and she put the words in it, and we called it *Sake in the Jar*."

"I wanted to ask different singers to come into our world because if you listen to *sean nos*, which is the old style of Irish traditional singing, you will hear something similar in folk music all around the world, from India to South America."

This embracing of different traditions from around the globe and co-opting them as outposts of the Irish cultural diaspora has become the Chieftains' trademark. It is illustrated perfectly in the song recorded in Gaelic by Raitt. "There's this chord on the first track played on a 10th-century Irish harp and then it goes straight into Bonnie's slide guitar picking up the same note straight out of the Mississippi Delta. I loved that. She had a tear in her eye when she finished. And I don't mind telling you I did, too."

● *Tears of Stone* is out now on RCA Victor. I know My Love, featuring the Chieftains and the Corrs, will be released in May

## Mixing the spices

CHARLIE MARIANO

Bangalore (Innition INT 3246-2)

CHARLIE MARIANO has been visiting and studying in India for nearly three decades now, and his recordings with members of the Karnataka College of Percussion date back 15 years, so he is something of an adept at blending his jazz also sound with the textures and rhythms of the sub-continent. Of course, improvisation in general, as well as stylistic features such as call-and-response patterns and spontaneous interplay between instruments, are common to both traditions, and several Indian members of the 14-piece band involved here commute between them too. So the ease and natural assurance of the music — written by singer R. A. Rama-

## NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

mani, guitarist Amit Heri and keyboard player Louis Banks along with Mariano — is unsurprising. What does impress, however, is the freshness and vitality: neither the gutsy adventurousness of jazz nor the extraordinary rhythmic complexity of the Karnataka participants is compromised in their blending. A consistently engaging and at times exhilarating album.

DAVE DOUGLAS

Convergence (Soul Note 12136-2)

AMERICAN trumpeter Dave Douglas, as he himself acknowledges, "a blender by nature", and this quintet album, not only features unusual instrumentation — Mark Feldman's violin and Erik Friedlander's cello plus a conventional rhythm section of Drew Gress on bass and Michael Sarin on drums — but also draws on everything from traditional Burmese music, through the blues and free jazz, to Messiaen and Kurt Weill.

The results, whether he is contributing dapperly poignant trumpet to a threnody for massacred Mexican villagers, blazing through a 12-bar sequence in hard-boiled mode or trading subtleties with Friedlander, are wholly original, and this is just the latest in an extraordinary sequence of brave, challenging albums from him.

CHRIS PARKER

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## POP ALBUMS

Triumph for Underworld

## Single of the year

Who is Britney Spears, and why should the world be grateful that TLC are missing in action? Read on

The scene is a corridor full of schoolgirls; all knee socks and high pigtails and cheap, drippy, pink lipgloss. And they're sorrowful, oh, my Lord, so sorrowful. Their friend — a scrawny blonde (well, scrawny by Los Angeles standards) has been dumped by her bloke, and she's losing it big time. "My loneliness is killing me," she howls as her friends gather around her like baby deer around a wounded comrade.



CAITLIN MORAN

Getting militant in their sorrow, the girls start walking down the corridor, bags swinging, fingers clicking. As they get nearer to us, they smoothly fall into an arrowhead formation and slide into their dancing — furious, lost, swooning to the music. The scrawny girl keeps collapsing — knees to the floor, arms around her body — but still stares at us, hard and desperate, begging: "Hit me baby, one more time."

The song in question, *Baby One More Time*, is the greatest single since Hanson's precocious, diamond-bright MMBop. It's a pounding, high teen R&B drama that twists and turns with unexpected Hammer piano chords, before breaking out into a redemptively hysterical chorus. It has flown out of the shops. No 1 in its first week of release in Britain, during which it

sold nearly a quarter of a million copies. It's one of those songs that people ask you if you've heard with a slight tone of awe in their voices: "Have you heard that Britney Spears single yet?" they say. "Who is she?"

Britney Spears, not yet 18, is also currently at No 1 in the American album and singles charts. She is undoubtedly a bit scrawny — imagine Dani Behr without her burden of tan or bosoms — but dances like a young Janet Jackson, all tai chi arm movements and robosex. And her voice is, as my more excitable little sister is wont to put it, "the bomb."

Spears is a massive Mariah Carey fan, and we all know how Mariah loves to run up and down those scales like a rat up a drainpipe. The tiny Spears can get at least three-quarters of the way up before she needs ladders.

So, given all this precocity, it seems only right to have a chat with the chart-busting teen with the bostin' pipes.

Ring ring. Ring ring. "Hello?" The voice is thick with sleep. Hi. Is that Britney. "Yeah." How's your day been? "Good so far," she says, in a drowsy whisper. "I've been kind of sleeping. I'm all laid up at the moment."

While rehearsing her next



"God has led me everywhere," says Britney Spears. Why, she can even understand why He allowed her to break her kneecap

video in LA last week, Spears "kicked too high" and her supporting leg went from beneath her. She's dislocated her kneecap, and is confined to bed with swellings and bandages. But she's very happy about this.

"God has led me everywhere, and with my leg, I think it was Him giving me a sign that I needed a break," she husks. "I thank Him for it." What a polite girl.

But then, she has got a lot of lounging around to catch up on: she started auditioning for fame early, initially applying to be one of Mickey Mouse's Mousketeers at the age of eight. Unfortunately, you can't

wear the sacred mouse ears until you hit 11, so she got herself an agent and went to some Fame-type school in New York, moving there when she reached 16. She sang in shopping malls for a year before getting her record deal.

"I was so excited when I heard *Baby One More Time* for the first time," she says in a tiny voice, like a baby rabbit trying to hide inside a thimble. "I just knew it was going to be a hit." So did the man who wrote it: incongruously for such a sassy R&B teenie hit, its author is Max Martin, former lead singer of Swedish heavy metal band It's Alive. It's like finding out that *Amazing*

*Grace* was written by Vinnie Jones.

"The song was originally written for TLC," Martin says. TLC are the R&B equivalent of the Stone Roses — their second album is a masterpiece, possibly the greatest album of the decade — but their career was on hold for four years because of legal squabbles. Martin offered the song to them, but their record company wanted to give it to boy band Five instead. In a rightful huff, Martin withdrew his song and gave it to Spears instead. "The day I can't decide who gets to do my songs is the day I quit," he says, very reasonably. TLC must be kicking themselves.

In the meantime, Spears is reaping the crop of their rejected magic beans.

"I had this weird dream last night," she says. "I was in a mirrored elevator stuck between floors, and I couldn't get out of it. There was a phone in there, and I was calling everybody, all my friends, saying 'I'm stuck in an elevator.' But I was really cool with it. Normally, if that happened, I'd be freaking out. But I was really happy in that elevator." That's fame for you.

Britney Spears and her savvy dancing schoolgirls will be on *Top of the Pops* tonight (BBC1, 7.30pm). *Baby One More Time* is released by Jive Records.

## Wall has all the fun flavour

David Sinclair on a new book about the darker, seamier and much more interesting side of pop

It is a puzzling fact that the most entertaining books about the world of popular music have been written by people who affect an utterly cynical disregard for the music itself. James Young's *Nice: Songs They Never Play On The Radio* and Simon Napier-Bell's *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me* are two that spring immediately to mind.

And Mick Wall's wildly indiscreet account of his life as a press officer for Black Sabbath and the subsequent author of "mediocre" books (his own word) about Ozzy Osbourne and Guns N' Roses is another memoir told in a similarly dark, twisted and frequently hilarious vein.

Veins are discussed in some detail as Wall starts the book with an unpleasantly graphic description of the period of his life when he was a heroin addict, although contrary to the more usual sequence of events, this is before he becomes established as a reviewer and feature writer for the heavy-metal mag *Kerrang!*

Like many junkies his emotional insecurity is more than matched by a broad streak of vainglorious egotism. As a journalist, even more than as a press officer, his contempt for the music and musicians he writes about is absolute. The albums that he reviews are "all so unbelievably atrocious I couldn't bring myself to listen to more than a minute or so of each track." When he interviews Kate Bush, all he wants to do is fondle her breasts, while an encounter with Stevie Nicks in her California mansion is recalled primarily because our fearless reporter manages to get a good look up her skirt as she leads the way up a ladder to her "secret space" at the top of a watchtower.

It sounds puerile and much of it is, but in his amoral, happy-go-lucky search for the new free drink or expenses-paid trip Wall fearlessly and often amusingly exposes much of the sham, mediocrity and sheer hollowiness that lies just beneath the surface glamour of life on the pop media/celebrity circuit. "You soon lose

your fear of clichés when everything is a cliché," he reasons. "Only once does he admit to feeling that there might be something more to it than this. Standing on the side of the stage at Live Aid in Philadelphia as Led Zeppelin reach the end of their historic performance of *Stairway To Heaven*, Wall is surprised to find himself feeling "as if there might actually be some meaning somewhere in the Universe. That this was in some way... real."

The moment quickly passes. ● *Paranoid — Black Days with Sabbath & Other Horror Stories by Mick Wall* is published by Mainstream at £9.99



Rock bottom: Mick Wall had nothing but contempt for the hand that fed him

## Throw the tiddlers back

## UNDERWORLD

*Beaucoup Fish* (UBO 1005432 £14.49)

THERE has been a significant upping of the ante in the dance world since Underworld released their last album, *Second Toughest in the Infants*, in 1996. Landmark albums by Prodigy, the Chemical Brothers, Fatboy Slim, Massive Attack and Roni Size have all stretched the envelope in different directions while at the same time making dance music more accessible to mainstream tastes. The temptation for Underworld to start competing on somebody else's terms must have been difficult to resist. But the trio from Essex, who spent much of this period riven by internal dissent, have kept their nerve, and *Beaucoup Fish* is another triumph, of sorts.

Despite drawing on a severely limited palette melodically and harmonically, they make ingenious use of rhythms, sounds and fragments of verse to stitch together pulsating grooves layered in atmos-

## NEW POP ALBUMS

pheres you could cut with a knife. *Cups*, with its synthesized vocals and a bassline like an uncoiling spring, takes a full nine minutes to evolve before finally hitting its stride, while *Push*, *Upstairs* barges straight in with an insistent techno beat nudged along by urgent little stabs of piano. Its companion piece, *Push Downstairs*, finds Karl Hyde's heavily drawled and reverberated words — "These are my intentions" — swimming out of a sleepy, narcotic haze.

As an artefact *Beaucoup Fish* is designed to eerie perfection. But meaning is elusive throughout, tunes nonexistent, and sometimes the sketchiest of evocations is forced to masquerade as a fully developed

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- |        |                                |                             |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 (2)  | Talk on Corners                | Corrs (Atlantic)            |
| 2 (1)  | Two Great Expecting You        | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 3 (4)  | The Misadventures of           | Laury Hill (Columbia)       |
| 4 (3)  | You're Gonna Love Me           | Fatboy Slim (Sire)          |
| 5 (20) | This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours | Marc Street (Fremantle)     |
| 6 (6)  | No Exit                        | Blondie (RCA/Beyond)        |
| 7 (7)  | Forgiveness, Not Forgetfulness | Corrs (Atlantic)            |
| 8 (20) | Life Thru a Lens               | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 9 (5)  | Step One                       | Slip (Jive)                 |
| 10 (3) | Greenest Hills                 | Eurythmics (RCA)            |

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● Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

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idea. Despite its sinews of rhythmic steel, this is an album with a heart of glass.

## EVERLAST

*Whitey Ford Sings the Blues* (Tommy Boy TBCD 1236 £12.99)

ALTHOUGH Everlast (real name Erik Schrody) is best known as the frontman in House Of Pain — the Irish-fixerated hip hop crew from Los Angeles who reached the Top Ten with *Jump Around* in 1993 — the tattooed rapper actually released his first solo record as long ago as 1988. Now, with *Whitey Ford Sings the Blues*, he takes things to a new level, combining rootsy acoustic guitar with a hip-hop beat to create songs that encapsulate the American experience as seen from the underside.

Both the tone and delivery of the lyrics is, thankfully, a long way removed from the caustic declamations that used to be Everlast's stock-in-trade: "God forbid you ever had to walk a mile in his shoes/Cos then you really might know what it's like to sing the blues", he sings with soulful dignity on the single, *What It's Like*.

There are echoes of Fun Lovin' Criminals on *Ends*, and at its most mellow, when accompanied by a horn section

## LINKS

WEBSITE: [underworld.com](http://underworld.com)  
[everlast.com](http://everlast.com)  
[www.general.co.uk](http://www.general.co.uk)  
[www.war.com/steveearle](http://www.war.com/steveearle)

TELEVISION: Top of the Pops BBC1, tonight 7.30pm  
 The Pop Chart Channel 5, Thursday 8pm  
 RADIO: UK Top 40, Radio 1, Sunday 4pm

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## Blair, the euro and a roasting from the press

According to his closest advisers, Tony Blair has counted every day that *The Sun* has failed to savage new Labour as a bonus: a day gained for the new Labour project. After two savagings of Blair this week by Britain's biggest-selling daily, February 21-27, 1999 may be judged by historians as the week the bonus was withdrawn.

As Anatole Kaletsky noted in *The Times* yesterday, the historic statement by Blair on the euro was a watershed in British politics, a day when nemesis may have stalked the Commons and when William Hague, the Conservative leader, emerged as a "Thatcher-style dark horse" instead of an "irrelevant, sacrificial placeholder". It followed Blair's worst press since he became Prime Minister, after the rows over GM food, the Welsh leadership election, Ken Livingstone and the Welsh leadership election, Ken Livingstone and the Welsh leadership election, Ken Livingstone and the Welsh leadership election.

He is a "humbler", says Alan Watkins in the *Independent on Sunday*: a "schizophrenic control freak", says Andrew Rawnsley in *The Observer*; "Rasputin", says Simon Jenkins in *The Times*; "heavy-handed, illiberal and authoritarian", says Simon Heffer in the *Daily Mail*. Nothing compels him so much as his ever-changing mirror of the press, says Jenkins. "How will it play?" he demands of a policy, long before "What should it be?"

What should it be? On the most profound issue confronting his Government, whether Britain should sign up to monetary union, Blair has now declared his policy. How did it play? Not very well.

On Monday *The Sun* devoted its entire front page to another of its 72-point questions: "Is this the most arrogant Cabinet in history?" Although new Labour thought the press had given it a hard time, it declared, the truth was that they had had an easy ride. It added, ominously: "The easy ride might now be coming to an end."

It returned to the attack on Wednesday, on this occasion drawing a parallel between Blair and the complacency of Stanley Baldwin in the interwar years. "Baldwin went from revered to reviled, a figure of intense hatred for the working classes," it said. "Bear that in mind, Mr



Pounding away: *The Sun's* criticism

Blair. You don't have to be in office to have your reputation destroyed. You could easily end up the most hated Prime Minister ever." Tories were cheered by a cartoon showing William Hague, only months ago a sick parrot, outside No 10 with a *Sun* placard announcing "Hague saves us from euro".

Blair's performance had been a shabby abuse of power, declared the *Daily Mail*. The press was anything but squared, *The Daily Telegraph* warned Blair, and *The Times* devoted what must have been the longest leading article in its history, over more than half the leader page, on the five tests that needed to be passed before serious debate could begin.

National newspapers were evenly split on Wednesday, with five supporting Blair — *The Mirror*, *Express*, *Daily Star*, *Independent* and *ITV* — and five in the sceptic camp — *The Sun*, *Mail*, *Times*, *Telegraph* and *Guardian*. But the sceptic newspapers have nearly 20 million readers a day against 12 million for Blair.

One result for Blair, as Hugo Young, a euro enthusiast, pointed out in *The Guardian*, is that he is no longer bulliable by the "phobosceptic" editors who believed that he was a suppliant for their favours: "By disallowing him any further

benefit of the doubt, they withdraw their offer and lose their leverage." So can Blair now use his popularity to overcome the hostility of five powerful newspapers and win a referendum? His task could seem daunting. When more than 121,000 *Sun* readers voted in a "You the Jury" phone-in on Wednesday, they delivered a 15-1 verdict for the pound. Even *MORI's* most recent and reliable poll for *The Times*, published today, delivers a 2-1 verdict against the euro among *Sun* readers (see table).

Yet *MORI* also shows that Blair has all to play for. At least half the readers of all five sceptic newspapers — some ten million potential voters — are still wavering and capable of being swayed either for or against the euro.

Nor do readers necessarily follow the opinions of their newspapers. According to *MORI* (some on admittedly tiny samples, only 5 per cent of *Guardian* readers, 15 per cent of *Times* and *Telegraph*, 28 per cent of *Mail* and 37 per cent of *Sun* readers unequivocally oppose the euro. And if the PM plays the Trust-me-I'm-Tony Blair-I'm-new-Labour card, three of the eurosceptic papers, *The Guardian* (71-5), *Sun* (60-24) and *The Times* (47-35), have a majority of Labour-voting readers.

With a decision still three years away, Blair is gambling his reputation on Britain joining the euro. But Blair gambles only when he thinks he will win, and today's *MORI* poll shows that seven in ten Britons believe they or their children will be using the euro within the next decade.

TABLOID READERS VOTING FOR THE EURO				
	The Sun	Daily Mirror	Daily Mail	Daily Express
Thousands	9,346	6,408	5,288	3,125
Conservative %	24	12	43	49
Labour %	60	77	40	40
Lib Dem %	9	9	13	11
Other %	7	2	2	2
Support %	30	51	36	36
Oppose %	66	44	52	52
Wavering %	45	55	50	50

## Join the homeboys in blue

Even before the Stephen Lawrence affair blew up in its face, the Metropolitan Police was finding it hard to attract ethnic minority recruits. Today, 32 years after Norwell Roberts became the Met's first black constable, just 3 per cent of the force's 26,000 officers are black or Asian. Although numbers have doubled since 1993 when Sir Paul Condon became Commissioner, they are still well short of the 18 per cent target recently set by the Home Secretary.

Successive charm offensives and PR campaigns in ethnic minority newspapers such as *The Voice*, *New Nation* and *Eastern Eye* have been counteracted by a library of stories in the same publications about deaths in custody, stop and search, and attempts — often by black officers — to sue the police.

Next week the Met will make its boldest move yet when it signs a contract with a black record producer who says that he can persuade more black people to become recruits by showing the police at their worst in a hard-hitting rap video and CD.

"The idea is to join it and make it better," says Charles Bailey, a self-styled "black Saatchi" who will write, direct, produce and star in the video, which he hopes will be shown in cinemas. He plans to film in Brixton using police helicopters, customised cars and all the paraphernalia of an East Coast rap shoot. More surprisingly, he will also include footage of notorious death-in-custody cases and Sir Paul Condon's initial denials of institutional racism, to show that he is not ducking any issues.

"The video tells the story of a young man who is arrested for a murder he did not commit and is forced to solve it using his contacts on the street," Bailey says. "You're going to see police knocking on doors, talking to people, trying to get evidence, then

A record producer aims to boost ethnic minority police recruitment with a rap video and CD, says Henry Bonsu



Charles Bailey says his street-level message will work

you're going to see me and my gang, going to the same people and getting the evidence. What I'm trying to show is that if you had more black police, you would have a better network, better approach, better communication. If I was a policeman, I could have looked at Stephen

Lawrence and seen that he was a straight, honest boy. But they couldn't."

Bob Cox, a Scotland Yard spokesman, says that the force is excited about having a new tool in its PR campaign. "We have tried lots of advertising, market research, and stuff in the ethnic news-

papers and magazines, and slowly the numbers have crept up. But this was an innovative idea from someone who is from the black community, and who we want to say that it won't work."

The Met's radical move follows that of other uniformed services such as the Armed Forces, which have consistently had trouble attracting ethnic minority recruits. Last year, the Household Cavalry sent a mounted troop through Brixton, providing much amusement for local residents. Another headline-grabbing stunt was a poster campaign which showed a black Army captain, Felix Datson, in Lord Kitchener pose, telling the community "Your country needs you".

But Abi Adeniran of Bhothouse market research, who monitors trends in the black community, doubts that the Met's initiative will work. "The fundamental problem with the police is that they are marketing something with features it does not have. It is not worth them selling themselves until they get their house in order."

Simon de Banya, who masterminded the Stephen Lawrence media campaign, was similarly sceptical. "What difference will bringing out a video make? Until we see an improvement in the force, better solving of black crime, a cutting-down of stop and search and of deaths in custody, people are going to say 'why should I join?'"

However, Bailey points to the great response he received last May when he made a record encouraging alienated young people to vote in the referendum for a London mayor. "As a black guy, I know what buttons to press to grab the attention of black people. The Met has been bold in giving me the contract. I guarantee you won't have seen anything like this before," he says.

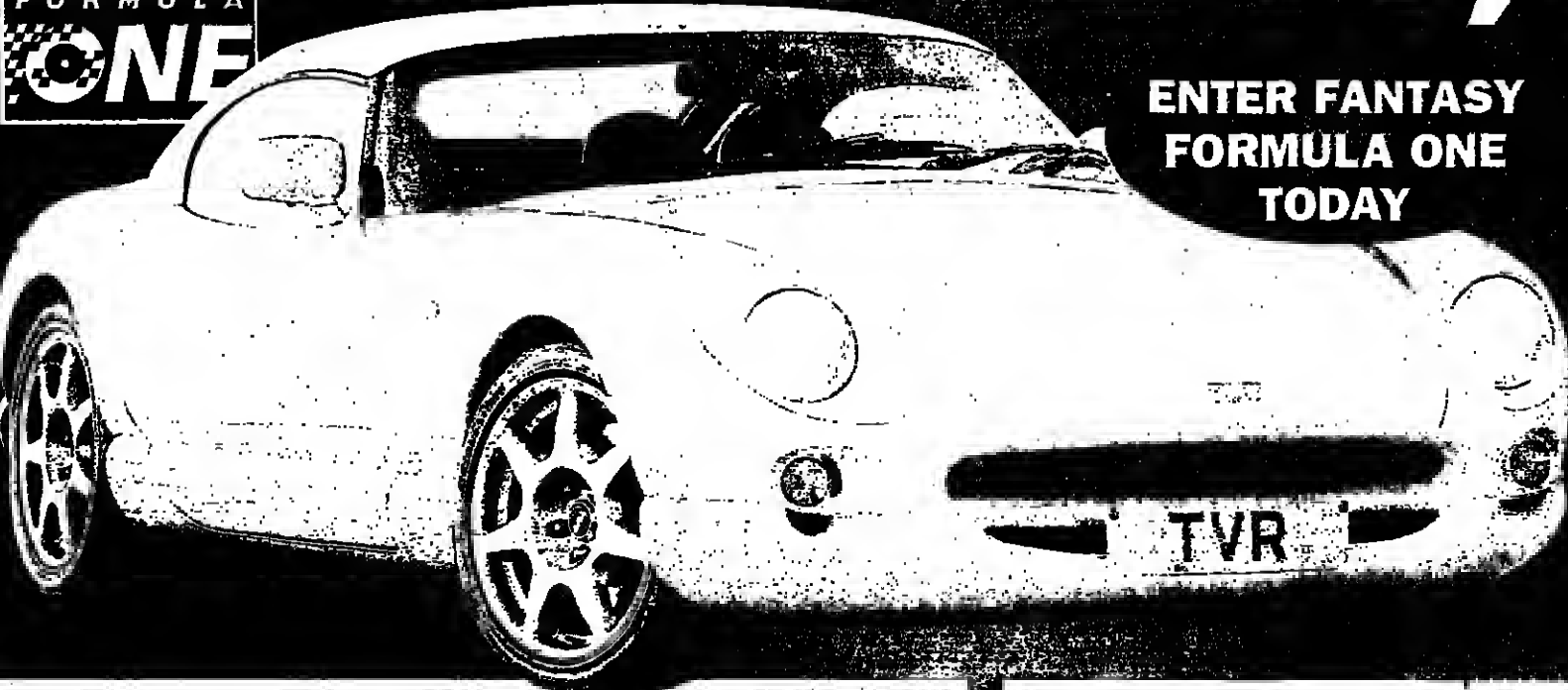
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02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 HH Prenzlen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gené	*Replaces Norberto Fontana

### CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 McLaren	25 Williams	27 Benetton	29 Arrows
24 Ferrari	26 Jordan	28 Sauber	30 BAR
			31 Stewart
			32 Prost
			33 Minardi

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0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

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Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Australian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, March 3, 1999.

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1st 2nd 3rd

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1st 2nd 3rd

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**Raymond Snoddy would cut bureaucracy, sack consultants and support the creatives if he were made DG**

**B**efore people such as Greg Dyke of Pearson Television and Mark Byford of the BBC World Service get too far ahead in the race for the job of Director-General of the BBC it is time to submit my formal application.

There is, of course, a large field jostling for attention even before Sir John Birt's job is advertised. Broadcasters such as David Elstein, Chief Executive of Channel 5, and Alan Yentob, the BBC Director of Television, are considering adding their hats to the ring. But all the declared candidates, however able, have a tired feel. They have been trotting around the three-ring circus of British broadcasting for years, dreaming all the time of becoming Director-General of the BBC.

What is needed is a fresh name and a new approach. Hidebound thinkers might consider that never having run anything would be a disadvantage — but that didn't stop Tony Blair. And if there is one lesson to be learnt from a lifetime in journalism, it is the ability to cut quickly through the flannel and get to the heart of the matter.

It is obvious what needs to be done at the BBC. In part it is a matter of changing its tone and culture but there are also immediate, practical things to be done to ensure that the corporation remains the pre-eminent public service broadcaster well into the next century.

Sir John has already reformed the BBC, but where in the past there was not enough management, too little financial information and inadequate strategic thinking, there is now too much. The place is drowning in policy options and perpetual revolution.

It is time to value, cherish and empower programme-makers. Above all they need to be protected from yet more structural change. The more dubious efforts of the past could even be reversed. The corporate divide between commissioning and actually making programmes would be too disruptive to unpick now. But what should be treated with increasing benign neglect is the dogma of "bi-medialism", the notion that television and radio are the same and that the foot soldiers are interchangeable. It is not so.

Obviously it is sensible to encourage a wide range of skills and to break down barriers between crafts, but the differences should be respected too. It would cost virtually nothing to make programme-makers who are usually more creative, more intelligent and better qualified academically than their bosses, to feel more appreciated.

The bureaucracy of the BBC could be tackled at a stroke by decreeing that all meetings are held on Fridays, when people are eager to get home for the weekend, leaving the rest of the week free for more productive work. To avoid excessive rigidity, departments would be able to call up to two extraordinary meetings a week for genuine emergencies.

Programme-makers will, however, need more money to devote to the mainstream programmes on the established terrestrial networks where the really competitive battles will be fought. But money will be a particularly tricky subject for the new Director-General. Under the five-year licence settlement agreed with Virginia Bottomley, the BBC got a lift-up in the licence fee to help to pay for digital



Main picture, Ray Snoddy. Clockwise from top: the contenders — Richard Eyre, Mark Byford, Greg Dyke, Alan Yentob and David Elstein

adventures. The new DG will walk straight into a relative downturn in the licence fee. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, has set up a committee under the economist Gavyn Davies to look at ways of supplementing the licence fee.

The options are already clear. You can, and should, encourage the BBC to intensify its commercial activities without changing the nature of the organisation. You can argue for a licence fee that rises ahead of the retail price index but it is unlikely that politically you could add much more than 1 per cent.

The most attractive option, and one that the Davies Committee will look at, is a supplementary licence for digital, say of £35 a year. This would be as dynamic as was the extra charge for colour television. The more people move to digital, the more money the BBC gets. The problem is that viewers are unlikely to value additional channels as much as they did the change to colour. Such a licence, unless a marginal sum, is likely to

hinder the development of digital. As a prudent financial planner — as most journalists are at heart — I will stand on a licence fee linked to retail prices, which after all brings the corporation more than £2 billion a year. Money will have to be saved and an unsentimental view taken of the activities of those who do not contribute directly to the programme-making.

Luckily there is plenty of scope. The overblown policy unit would be the first place to start. I have never come across an organisation of any kind anywhere in the world with so many people involved in strategy and planning. Dozens of jobs and millions of pounds could be saved, and it would be double gain: switching off the flow of words and numbers would be highly liberating for the organisation.

Many more millions could be saved immediately by thanking McKinsey for their efforts over the past years and restricting the use of consultants to the provision of discrete expertise not already available in the Corporation.

There are also those who think that the press and publicity operation could benefit from streamlining.

One potential candidate for a

short back and sides is the £200 million being spent on the digital revolution. The scale of the initiative is an outrage, and BBC programme-making budgets are being unnecessarily and dangerously squeezed to pay for a form of digital imperialism. It is important that the BBC should be part of the digital future, so keep things simple and spend £100 million instead of £200 million of licence payers' money on the future. It might help BBC to improve its ratings.

BBC Online has worked and should be encouraged despite the free-rider problem — licence payers funding an excellent Internet news service for the citizens of California. It is cost-effective and it works because millions are hooked up to the Internet and can use it. The same is not true of digital television. So scale back News 24 and provide a genuine alternative which already exists — BBC World — supplemented by more domestic coverage as the market develops. The same applies to BBC Choice. The real additional choice would be to provide a chan-

nel that majors on showing the best of BBC1 and BBC2 the day after it goes out to give viewers an extra chance to see the many excellent programmes they have missed. Digital is important.

Until you get in there with a really good finance man at your side, like those at Granada, it is impossible to quantify the savings, but you can just smell the unnecessary spending.

Urgent decisions would also have to be taken on the programme front. Radio 4 listening figures may have recovered from their low point but my theory is not so much that people are falling in love with the changes, but that they recognise they have nowhere else to go for high-quality speech radio.

To start the process going, yesterday in Parliament will return to Friday and FM on day one. I am equally happy to give an unequivocal undertaking that *One Man and His Dog* make an immediate return to the screen.

And when I find the forsything responsible for axing it...

**Scale back News 24 as an alternative already exists**

## Regulating the regulators

**C**hris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, is planning to set up a regulators' forum to try to end the squabbling and overlapping responsibilities of the bodies involved in regulating broadcasting and communications. In particular, Mr Smith wants to see greater co-operation between bodies such as the Independent Television Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator.

Senior executives on such bodies already meet, but Mr Smith wants a more formal forum to co-ordinate the approach to the regulation of content and competition where responsibilities overlap. Such a move could happen quickly as no legislation is required.

How communications should be regulated has become a key issue as technological convergence blurs the boundaries between broadcasting, computers and telecommunications. A recent government Green Paper on the subject took a cautious approach and stayed well away from the idea of setting up a single regulatory body for all of communications. It decided that the present structures could cope for some time yet with the changes that flow from developments such as digital television and the Internet.

The creation of a regulators' forum could be an important first step in getting greater co-operation between bodies which have obvious interests in defending their own territory. At least five regulatory bodies, apart from the BBC Board of Governors, have some interest in the regulation of some aspect of broadcasting policy — the ITC, the Radio Authority, the OFT, Ofcom and the Broadcasting Standards Commission.

The Culture Secretary has also been asked to consider a review of how radio frequencies are used in Britain, to see whether a fairer balance could be achieved between the BBC and the commercial sector. The appeal has come from Tony Stoller, the chief executive of the Radio Authority, who believes that the BBC is being wasteful with its use of radio frequencies. The authority believes that there is room for new services without reducing the reach of existing BBC networks.

It is likely that Mr Smith will now consider whether such a review of radio spectrum — which could have considerable significance for the commercial sector — is necessary. Commercial radio has been growing fast in Britain, but apart from digital, there is an increasing shortage of frequencies for new services.

RAYMOND SNODDY

## The unlikely crusader

**Bill Frost reveals a little-known side to Paul Dacre, who made the Lawrence case front-page news**

**W**hen Paul Dacre's *Daily Mail* first broke the Stephen Lawrence story, on its front page, many of its blue-rinsed readers must have been astonished. Traditionally, the *Mail* has been identified with hammering scoundrels, hunches, "lumpy left" councillors, gay activists and bogus asylum-seekers.

But his calculated gamble has paid off on the grand scale: even liberals who accused him of subservience to the Tory cause have been confounded — without Dacre's flair and persistence, the murder of Stephen Lawrence would have remained just another unsolved crime, a paragraph or two in a local newspaper.

The genesis of the campaign is worth examination. So, too, are the *Mail*'s circulation figures, which continued to rise as its campaign gathered momentum.

As is well known now, Dacre and Stephen's father Neville were friends. Mr Lawrence, a painter and decorator, regularly worked at the Editor's home in Kent. Less well documented is Dacre's knowledge of racism. As important an element in the equation is Dacre's nose for a good story and his determination to name the guilty and the incompetent.

Thirty years ago, as editor of Leeds University's *Union News*, he showed the same mix of educated populism and principle which now characterises the *Mail*. Then, too, he directed his campaigning zeal against racism. One of his early campaigns was a three-week investigation of the problems faced by black families. A front-page story headlined "Shock Results: *Union News* Poll" revealed that "only 52 per cent of Leeds students disagree with Enoch Powell's views on integration".

A unsigned comment column declared: "Students can play an

important role in breaking down the barriers that so obviously exist between the coloured and white communities in this city... they should be the ones who want to overcome the difficulties of integration... it is a question of caring."

Other campaigns followed on behalf of the homeless, the mentally handicapped, homosexuals and cannabis users.

Under the banner headline "Marijuana", a second-year student raved about the delights of intoxication. "We talk and it is so funny, you cannot stop laughing. Colours and sounds are more distinct. Everybody is alive. It is all so simple."

Another student made the case for the legalisation of cannabis: "Drugs of all sorts are an individual's option. Society has some right to ask why, but in no way to pass judgment — no man has a right to force his opinion on another."

Under his own byline, Dacre was also to fight on behalf of "welfare state misfits". The headline above one feature reads "They are classified as mentally subnormal, but they are still very human beings"; the subject matter may be different but it is classic *Daily Mail* speak. His articles were to reach a wider readership when local newspapers and radio stations joined the campaign to close a cramped and squalid rehabilitation unit.

Three decades on, neither zeal nor determination to embrace an ostensibly unpopular cause has deserted Dacre. Against all the odds, he has put the fight against racism at the top of the political agenda.

As one *Mail* insider said last night: "He has always enjoyed rocking the boat and he cannot abide injustice. But, best of all, he knows a bloody good story when he sees it."



Reality: *One Man and His Dog* was axed 18 months ago

HERE'S the truth about *One Man and His Dog*. It was axed 18 months ago by Mark "Terminator" Thompson, long before his replacement as BBC2 Controller, Jane Root, arrived. Thompson, now running the BBC's regions, says the programme's makers didn't help their case by insisting that it had to continue as a 35-minute show — which is hard to schedule.

His predecessor, urbanite Michael Jackson, now chief executive of Channel 4, didn't like *One Man* either, and stockpiled lots of programmes, so no one noticed anything was up until *The Daily Telegraph* started blustering. Now that Sky has entered the bidding, BBC Choice is keen to keep it in the family. Ewe've been put straight.

■ WAR has been averted at today's What The Papers Say press awards. Granada executives spouted the potential for fisticuffs when they studied the seating plan at the Savoy Hotel. Paul Routledge, *The Mirror*'s irascible political commentator, had been placed on the same table as Euan MacAskill of *The Guardian* — one of the four journalists who

## A case of dog eats dog

"Stole" Routledge's scoop about Peter Mandelson's loan. On the other side of MacAskill was Charlie Whelan, former press officer to the Chancellor, which would have made for a lively exchange of views. Swift action was taken, however, and MacAskill has been placed with *Guardian* pals David Hencke and Seamus Milne on a table at the other end of the room. A Granada source says: "We thought discretion the better part of valour at the Savoy."

■ THE *Daily Mail*'s triumph over Stephen Lawrence isn't the only thing driving up sales. With *The Mail* on Sunday, it is running a double Lucky Waller promotion, promising buyers two free gifts a week. So far I have won only once. A holiday in Florence? Nah. My prize is a free



jam doughnut! To collect the doughnut I must make a trip to Gregg's Bakery; there isn't one near me. I call it Unlucky Waller.

■ SAD to report that ITV's drama reconstruction, *Stephen Lawrence: The True Story*, was watched by a disappointing 4.7 million, dropping to 3.7 million. It was hustled on to the screen last week thanks to the current macho mood of competition when viewers would have found it more relevant this week. All part of ITV's dismal public relations record,

which included being hauled before MPs, on Wednesday to explain the refusal to broadcast on digital satellite. Richard Eyre, ITV Network chief executive, and John Hardie, marketing director, are now searching for a super spin-doctor.

■ THE appointment of Heidrick & Struggles, American headhunters, to conduct a global search for Sir John Birt's replacement is causing grief at rival British firm Goddard Kay Rogers, whose Jill Carrick last year secured Rupen Gavin from BT, as chief executive for the BBC's commercial wing. Is it just a front? The BBC vice chairman, Baroness Young of Old Scone, has been flicked off for saying the next Director-General should come from within. Greg Dyke, currently jammed to a plucocratic crisp

after a holiday in Barbados, still fancies his chances, though Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson and Dyke's boss, was overheard saying: "He'd love the job, but would he want the work that goes with it?" Applications to Yugoslav-born headhunter Milena Djurdjevic, at H & S's office, 100 Piccadilly, London, W1.

■ GLENDA BAILEY, Editor of *US Marie Claire*, is said to be spinning tactics at the discovery that British *Marie Claire* has photographed Monica Lewinsky for its April cover. Bailey will be aghast to learn that the scoop was pulled off by the British mag's acting editor, Elsa McAlonan — soon to be Editor at *Woman's Journal* — thanks to astute remarks that she made to *The Times* about Lewinsky being her ideal cover girl.

On reading the request, Michael O'Mara, publisher of Andrew Morton's book on Lewinsky, phoned Patrick Demarchelier for the shoot. Suitably flattered, Lewinsky agreed. Which shows that a strong nose for a story is not a dead art in the grandiose world of magazines.



## media times

## Is the nation ready for Trevor at 6.30?

Next week, at 10.30pm on Friday, March 5, television will see the end of an era. Trevor McDonald, a self-confessed sofie, will be holding back the tears having shuffled his papers for the last time on *News at Ten*. After 32 years, ITN's flagship programme will bow out.

McDonald is moved by its passing. "You must feel some emotion about it, not only for yourself but for the countless people here who have worked on it," he says in his small, spartan office at ITN. "I shall try not to shed a tear as there were too many over Diana and we don't want any more."

Inevitably, the highly public and protracted death throes of *News at Ten* — and the years of uncertainty surrounding its future — have been unsettling for McDonald. Now that a decision has been made he admits to feeling immense relief. At the same time, as a compulsive worrier riddled with insecurities, he is plagued with self-doubt about the new "6.30" — as he calls *The ITV Evening News* that will rise from the ashes of *News at Ten* on the Monday after its demise. "I just hope that my performance matches up to expectations," he says.

A lot of people have been involved with the new set, new design and months of input to get it on air. Everyone has done the work. There's only one person to mess it up, and that's me. You want to make sure you don't let them down."

Leaning forward, and with a nervous edge to his voice, McDonald lacks the confidence he shows in front of the camera. He says the greatest challenge of the *Evening News* is the change of time and audience. Both demand new thinking.

At 10pm people are sitting back ready to relax into watching the news," he says. "I suspect that at 6.30pm they will be grappling with domestic problems: trying to

News at Ten will end next week but Trevor McDonald has his work cut out. Interview by Paul Nathanson

bludgeon their children into doing homework, keeping them away from video machines and thinking about bathtime and getting them to bed.

"Grabbing their attention and telling the news in an arresting way will be at a premium. The pace will have to be faster, and I wouldn't be surprised if there were more short items as we pay more attention to people's attention span."

However, McDonald, who has been presenting *News at Ten* since 1990, insists that ITN will not tamper with the four sacred pillars that have supported the programme in the past: authority, accessibility, balance and, most importantly, accuracy.

The old staples, too — the bongos and the quirky "And finally..." sign-off story — will remain. His own favourite story, he reveals, was in the early days when Reggie Bosanquet reported that firemen had been called out by a lady to rescue her cat stuck up in a tree. Mission accomplished, the lady was so grateful that she invited the crew in for tea.

"And on their way out they ran over the cat," McDonald says gleefully. "I'm not anti-cat. I have nothing against those wonderful animals, but it is extraordinarily funny. I'm not sure we could get away with that now. It might offend cat-lovers and the RSPCA, and our switchboard would be inundated with calls of protest."

Despite McDonald's obvious loyalty to ITN, having spent more

than 25 years there since joining as a reporter in 1973, he says that he would have quit had *News at Ten* been moved to 6.30pm without the provision of the 11pm bulletin and without the offer of anchoring the *60 Minutes* programme, the current affairs magazine set to start in April. "It is well known that I was considering my options but I stayed because of ITN's assurances," he says.

However, he says, should there be any trivialising of the *Evening News*, he would go. But isn't the whole move just a cynical bid to boost ratings? Why else would reruns of James Bond films be set to rampage over the old *News at Ten* slot?

"It's possible to be disrespectful about ratings," McDonald replies defensively, "but if you are, you're not in the real world. We are in the ratings game. People do television, be it drama, entertainment or news. They do everything to get audiences. You can't ignore the ratings. I know exactly what the BBC, Channel 4 and Channel 5 get every day."

McDonald's greatest challenge will be *60 Minutes*, with its four or five items. It is a programme that he has long admired in America, where it is an institution. He sees it as broader than *Newsnight* and therefore not taking on Foxman and Wake.

*60 Minutes* will feature exceptional stories taken from the mainstream news agenda — items lending themselves to longer slots than the news allows, stories behind the

story and "the dramatic bit which has never been told."

With its big-name interviews, business and human interest, *60 Minutes* will be a cocktail of the old *Sunday Times* insight pages, *World in Action* and *Dispatches*, and might go out midweek, possibly in the 10 o'clock slot vacated by ITN, he says.

McDonald is also busy with his new chat show, *Trevor McDonald Meets*, indulging his love of interviewing — "the finest art in our business". He hopes it will transfer from ITV2 to ITV and has so far enjoyed talking to the Duchess of York ("very companionable"), Ken Livingstone ("very witty") and Larry Henry, who chided him for committing the cardinal sin of interrupting.

"It is nice not to be pounding people with questions in search of news points," he says, "and to let people relax and talk in a more civilised way where wit is not ruled out."

Yet McDonald's main focus — as the *Evening News* anchorman — will be far from witty. As he states in his foreword to ITN's book, *News at Ten — a Celebration of 32 Years of Television News*, he aims to "speak for the persecuted and dispossessed."

"If we all do our job in the news properly, people will never again be able to say, as they did of the Holocaust, 'We didn't know'."

"We can't make the Prime Minister act on what we show, or make President Clinton listen as we show bodies in the snow in Kosovo or people being butchered to death in Rwanda. Governments might say these things are not true, but they can't claim they did not know about them. I'll be proud if we can do things so people never again make that excuse."

● *News at Ten* — a Celebration of 32 Years of Television News is published on March 3 (Bantam, £18.99)



Trevor McDonald: "I just hope that my performance on the 6.30 matches up to expectations"

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**CLASSIFIED EDUCATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 50**

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media times

# Wagadon's days of woe

Its main women's mag is in trouble and hurting other titles. Just where did Wagadon go wrong, asks Carol Midgley

For a company that invented the British style magazine, the house of Wagadon is looking distinctly unfashionable this year. *The Face*, the magazine which was the last word in Eighties cool, has shown year-on-year losses of 29 per cent, according to the latest ABC figures. *Arena*, its younger but equally hip brother, has declined by nearly 30 per cent.

But it is the fate of *Frank*, Wagadon's venture into the cut-throat female market, that is causing the glumest of faces at the company's offices in Clerkenwell.

The magazine, launched in September 1997 to appeal to independent, intelligent women of 25-35, appears to be in nosedive. Its monthly circulation is down to 37,233 — a 10.4 per cent drop, year on year.

Nick Logan, the company's charismatic editorial director, is said to be dismayed by a series of high-profile departures, including Sarah Jane Hoare, the former creative director, Dylan Jones, one-time Wagadon group editor, and Charles Gant, once managing editor of *The Face* and now with *Heat*.

Tina Gaudoin, the launch editor, resigned less than a year after the magazine's birth, saying she wanted to spend more time with her family. Wagadon insiders, however, say she did not like the mainstream direction in which the magazine was being taken. Logan, once the man with the Midas touch, last year saw *Deluxe* — Wagadon's in-house men's magazine — fold, and *Red*, the Emap magazine aimed at "mid-youth" women, troupe *Frank* (Red's sales are hovering at a healthy 173,000, although this represents a 9 per cent drop).

Despite 40 per cent of Wagadon being owned by Condé Nast, media experts are now wondering how long *Frank* can survive without the life-support machine of a giant company such as Emap or IPC to sustain it financially through fallow times. Many staff at Wagadon, where morale is said to be



low, believe *Frank* should never have been attempted in the first place. "It is a mainstream women's magazine and Nick's strength has always been in the underground and the cutting edge," one said.

They tried to rapidly expand the company, bringing out *Frank* and *Deluxe* in the same year. But they are running the place in the same way they did 20 years ago, when it was a one-man show.

"Wagadon was a great place to work then and *The Face* was fantastically successful — but there were about ten people on staff and they worked for love, not money."

"Now Wagadon is in a completely different marketplace. The Nineties are extremely tough and aggressive. But sometimes it is as if we are still in the Eighties and haven't tapped into the modern zeitgeist. I think Nick still expects people to work for love in a way, but times have changed."

Others say that *Frank* has never sat comfortably in the bohemian *Face* environment. While *Face* and *Arena* journalists would be wearing tatty jeans and trainers, the women

at *Frank* would float around in Joseph suits. "The different camps eyed each other very suspiciously at first," said an insider. "It was a total culture shock."

Tim Kirkman, the head of press for the media buying group Carat, said the industry was largely pessimistic about *Frank*'s future, although a miraculous revival still wasn't out of the question.

"If it continues to show this sort of decline, it's hard to see how it can be around for much longer," he said.

IPC closes magazines if they are selling fewer than 100,000 — look at what happened to *Options*. If Wagadon wants to compete, it will have to operate more like Emap or IPC — and that means huge investment in the product.

"They are lovely people working at Wagadon but it is still a small and quite parochial company. They don't have the back-up of Emap-type organisations."

*Frank* is not a cheap magazine to produce and they were always going

to have a struggle to make it pay its way.

Many past and present staff at *Frank* have watched the progress of *Red* with envy. Some £3 million was spent on four years of focus groups before *Red* was launched in a blaze of publicity. Its sales are not brilliant but they are holding up at a very difficult time for the women's market.

Only six out of 20 monthly titles registered year-on-year increases and neither *Frank* nor *Red* has excited what was at first hoped to be an unexplored slice of the marketplace.

Marcelle D'Argy Smith abruptly parted company with IPC's women's *Journal* after figures showed that it was down 13.9 per cent. She blamed lack of investment and IPC's eagerness to see immediate results.

A media expert said: "When people of the calibre of D'Argy Smith are removed, it shows there is no room at all for sentimentality in magazines at the moment. It's a brutal place and the brutal truth is that *Frank* probably won't survive, which is a shame — but you can't get by these days on just being trendy."

## Time to cry freedom

An era without censorship is dawning for Nigeria's media, says Elizabeth Blunt

The invitation was tempting: three weeks in Nigeria, which had been all but closed to foreign journalists because of the late General Sani Abacha's restrictive policies. The British Government, keen to support Nigeria's transition to democracy, was sponsoring a series of events for Nigerian journalists and had asked the BBC to organise them.

My team was there in the lead-up to last weekend's parliamentary elections to give nine workshops across Nigeria. Each team included an experienced broadcaster, plus someone with training experience. I am a former West Africa correspon-

dent for the BBC and covered my first Nigerian election in 1979.

The World Service Training Trust, in charge of the project, told us: "Don't even think of it as training." Workshops or colloquiums would be better. It was thought that Nigerian journalists, traditionally among

the best, would not come if offered "training". As it turned out, a colloquium was a fine idea. Nigerians love to talk politics; the problem was getting a word in edgeways. But they were also hungry for training, aware of how isolated and restricted their professional lives had become under a repressive military government. After years of censorship the lid has been lifted. At first I winced with anxiety when I heard their views on the misdeeds of General Abacha. They even tackled subjects considered taboo for far longer: tribalism and regionalism, even secession.

But the knowledge and professional skills to turn all this into lively, informative coverage have been eroded through lack of use and the economic crisis. Nigerian journalists attend universities that have few books, no periodicals. They cannot recall what Nigeria was like before military government and have not travelled

abroad. We brought tapes of TV election coverage in Britain and India; it was a revelation for them that in other democracies candidates not belonging to a government-approved party can stand. One big change has been the establishment of private radio and television stations, and one of our most interesting sessions compared two television news bulletins from the same night. The government-owned network NTA led on a speech by the head of state to a lawyers' dinner. The private station led with an exclusive about villagers stealing petrol from a leaking pipeline.

NTA's problem was not that it led with General Abacha's speech, but that the journalists had become so numbed by automatically reporting everything he said that they missed the significance of an announcement on judicial independence. The piece was little more than a list of the dignitaries present, with shots of people dining. They soon came up with ideas on better ways to do the story.

A cracking story with striking pictures was the private station's lead. The snag was that the journalists involved admitted that the pictures were of another incident. Only in the face of heavy peer pressure did they concede that the pictures were misleading to the point of dishonesty.

We welcomed as speakers politicians, trade unionists and leading Nigerian journalists, and watched them being subjected to our participants' newly honed interviewing techniques. When we had finished, one journalist said: "We didn't know what to expect. But you have refurbished our minds." These new skills will no doubt serve the Nigerian media well in tomorrow's presidential elections.

Elizabeth Blunt is the Planning Editor at BBC World Service News.

## Andrexx puppy caught in adland war

TEMPERS are flaring over Kimberly-Clark's decision to hand its £90 million worldwide advertising for paper tissues to J. Walter Thompson. Marketing Week reports. One of the brands affected is Andrexx, which JWT handled until it was replaced by FCB Worldwide two years ago. Now FCB's president Harry Reid says K-C's decision has caused him "sadness, anger and disillusionment" and claims that JWT has won the account back by price-cutting. "I am angry because K-C is giving the account to an agency it fired a couple of years ago... and that has discounted to a ludicrous level to get the business." K-C denied that price was a factor. JWT invented the Andrexx puppy and FCB car-

ried it further with the "puppy patrol". Now the beast may be put down.

■ YET ANOTHER glossy garden magazine is to invade an increasingly crowded market. Press Gazette reports that GE Magazines will launch the bi-monthly *Garden Inspirations* next week, ahead of the planned *New Eden* from IPC. *Gardens Illustrated* and *The English Garden* are already established, as well as a host of "how-to" mags. Becca Watson, publisher, says *Garden Inspirations* will be aimed primarily at women.

■ FIGURES for cinema advertising spend for 1998 will show a rise to £97 million, up ten per cent on 1997, according

to the Cinema Advertising Association quoted in Media Week. United Distillers and Vintners was the largest advertiser, led by a £31 million campaign for Smirnoff vodka. The biggest increase came in the corporate sector, increasing its spend by 270 per cent.

■ THE LAUNCH in April of individual savings accounts (Isas) will spark a £100 million ad blitz from 300 financial services companies, says Marketing, quoting the Media agency Carat. About a quarter will be spent on TV spots, the rest on press ads and mailshots. The Inland Revenue will spend

about £1 million on a campaign to make people aware of the new tax-exempt accounts.

■ CHANGING FACES: Melinda Messenger to host new comedy game show, *Can We Still Be Friends?* for Channel 5 (Broadcast). Tony Cornes, head of public affairs for Safeway, moves to Monsanto to head corporate, public and media relations in wake of GM food scare. Granada Media Group seeks new corporate affairs director as Chris Hopson moves to senior management role; Kirsty Macmaster quits as European financial PR head for Edelman Worldwide, com-

plaining about lack of investment by the company (PR Week). BBC Worldwide poaches Paul Gilooly, head of multimedia content for BT, as its new head of global marketing for entertainment; Mick Buckley, vice-president of ad sales with TNT and the Cartoon network, to be UK managing director of Turner Entertainment Networks.

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Former building society Woolwich seeks new agency for relaunch to replace Ogilvy & Mather, its agency for 35 years; M & C Saatchi expected to get a slice of Sainsbury's business; Goodyear plans to replace McCann-Erickson on its \$15 million European ad account (Campaign). Pretty Polly hires

for £7 million TV campaign for bras; Sky drops M & C Saatchi and takes its £60 million ad account in-house (Marketing).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

### media watch

THE men's magazine market has been in the headlines, thanks to the dismissal of James Brown as Editor of *GQ*. Even without such publicity, the circulation of men's lifestyle titles has been buoyant. In the six months to the end of December, total circulation increased by 6.1 per cent, year on year, to 2.7 million.

Nevertheless, there have been some casualties. *Arena* fared particularly badly — its titles *Arena* and *Face* both lost nearly 30 per cent of sales, while *Deluxe* closed after only eight months, at the end of 1998. Also badly hit was Emap's *Sky*, which lost 29.1 per cent of its circulation, a loss of 54,000 sales.

The most popular "laddish" titles, however, maintained their leads. Emap's *FHM*, IPC's *Loaded* and Dennis's *Maxim* all increased their circula-

tion. *FHM*, the overall market leader with 751,493 sales, climbed by more than 107,000 year on year. *Maxim* also piled on an impressive 29.2 per cent. Condé Nast's *GQ* achieved only a 2 per cent rise, although March's issue is expected to sell like hot cakes, thanks to the notoriety attributed to it through the departure of James Brown.

The women's monthly magazine market was less dramatic. Although the total circulation of the monthlies increased by 4.2 per cent, proportional losses and gains were generally smaller, and the circulation of the sector's market leader, G & J's *Prima*, was substantially less than the men's top title, *FHM*. *Prima*'s closest rivals were *Atte*, Futura's *Sugar* and NatMag's *Cosmopolitan*. Again, Condé Nast's titles did

not fare so well. Both *Tatler* and *Vanity Fair* lost sales, and *Vogue* increased its circulation by just 0.2 per cent. Wagadon's *Frank* had no year-on-year comparison as it launched only in September 1997, but compared with its previous period the title dropped 10.4 per cent of sales, to 37,233.

SouthBank's *Marie Claire* gained the most sales within the sector, achieving nearly 30,000 extra year on year.

MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at <http://www.mediatel.co.uk> (0171-439 7375)

MEN'S LIFESTYLE ABC YoY COMPARISONS				
TITLE	PUBLISHING COMPANY	Jul 97-Dec 97	Jul 98-Dec 98	% Ch
Arena	Wagadon	88,922	66,949	-25.9
Bizarre	John Brown Publishing	71,782	95,167	32.6
Esquire	National Magazine Co.	106,263	108,284	2.0
Face	Wagadon	100,744	71,381	-29.1
FHM	EMAP	644,110	751,493	16.7
Focus	Gruner & Jahr	85,462	68,762	-19.5
GQ	Condé Nast	129,294	132,185	2.3
Loaded	IPC	141,561	150,111	6.0
Max Power	EMAP	192,206	150,441	-21.7
Maxim	Dennis Publishing	249,036	321,947	29.2
Rodale Press	EMAP	225,136	283,360	25.8
Men's Health	EMAP	186,961	132,480	-29.1
Sky	EMAP	33,730	24,465	-27.4
T3	Future Publishing	2,553,203	2,708,117	6.1
TOTAL				

WOMEN'S MONTHLIES ABC YoY COMPARISONS				
TITLE	PUBLISHING COMPANY	Jul 97-Dec 97	Jul 98-Dec 98	% Ch
49	IPC	370,718	173,244	-53.0
Company	National Magazine Co.	284,092	290,402	2.2
Cosmopolitan	National Magazine Co.	461,116	476,288	3.3
Elle	EMAP	218,077	200,436	-8.1
Essentials	IPC	272,689	296,904	8.9
Frank	Wagadon	n/a	37,233	n/a
Harpers & Queen	National Magazine Co.	93,545	98,863	5.7
Looks	EMAP	115,479	136,340	18.1
Marie Claire	IPC	415,550	445,289	7.2
Minx	EMAP	160,088	150,708	-5.9
New Woman	EMAP	268,449	261,681	-2.5
Prima	Gruner & Jahr	540,727	510,142	-5.7
Red	EMAP	n/a	173,081	n/a
She	National Magazine Co.	241,490	226,079	-6.4
Sugar	Atte Futura	485,944	451,696	-7.0
Tatler	Condé Nast	90,346	85,673	-5.2
Vanity Fair	Condé Nast	85,454	80,593	-5.7
Vogue	Condé Nast	202,028	202,321	0.1
Woman's Journal	IPC	131,541	110,762	-15.8
TOTAL		4,227,302	4,403,075	4.2

# NET PROFITS.

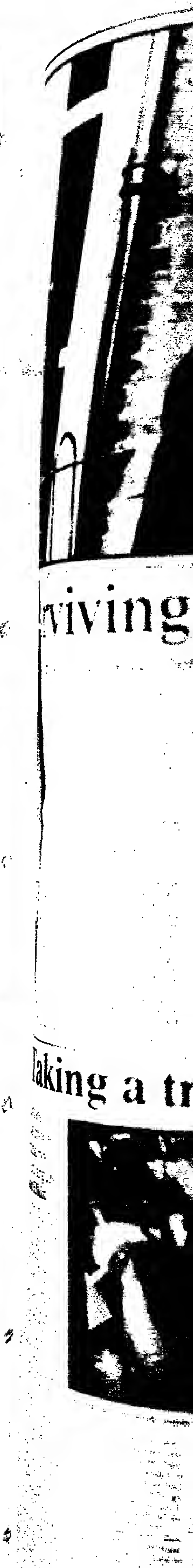
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CHANGING TIMES

Johnnie Lee 1520











# December 1998 examination

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MOTOR RACING: DETERMINED OWNER LOOKING FOR MORE THAN CHEAP THRILLS DURING THE NEW FORMULA ONE SEASON

# Jordan sets his sights on reaching new heights

By KEVIN EASON

Damon Hill was not sure which way to look as three pairs of headlights were flared enthusiastically for a battery of happy cameramen. Ten yards away from the business of garnering the race-day publicity that makes sponsors happy, Mike Gascoyne, technical director at Jordan, tapped his foot impatiently to get on with the business of racing.

The Jordan team has been the most popular and entertaining since the day Eddie Jordan slid into Formula One eight years ago on a financial shoestring, with more optimism than cash. He learnt quickly the value of publicity to sponsors and every photograph, even if it features semi-naked page three girls, is potentially worth a few more quid in the bank to pay for expensive technicians such as Gascoyne, and drivers such as Hill, on his £5 million salary.

In the past, reporters wanted to talk to McLaren because they were successful, Jordan because he always had an opinion — even if his team stood no chance of winning. Now Jordan is a winning team and the distractions off the track that once kept the fledgling team aloft are getting in the way. Jordan knows that he is close to his ambition of a world championship and now reporters want to talk to a winner, not a publicity-seeker.

That means no more page three girls or scantily clad beauties such as Emma Noble, John Major's future daughter-in-law, in the pit lane attracting the gaze of bemused mechanics who should have something else on their minds in the hours before a race.

"We will be cutting back on some of the activities we used to get into," Jordan said yesterday. "We are a team

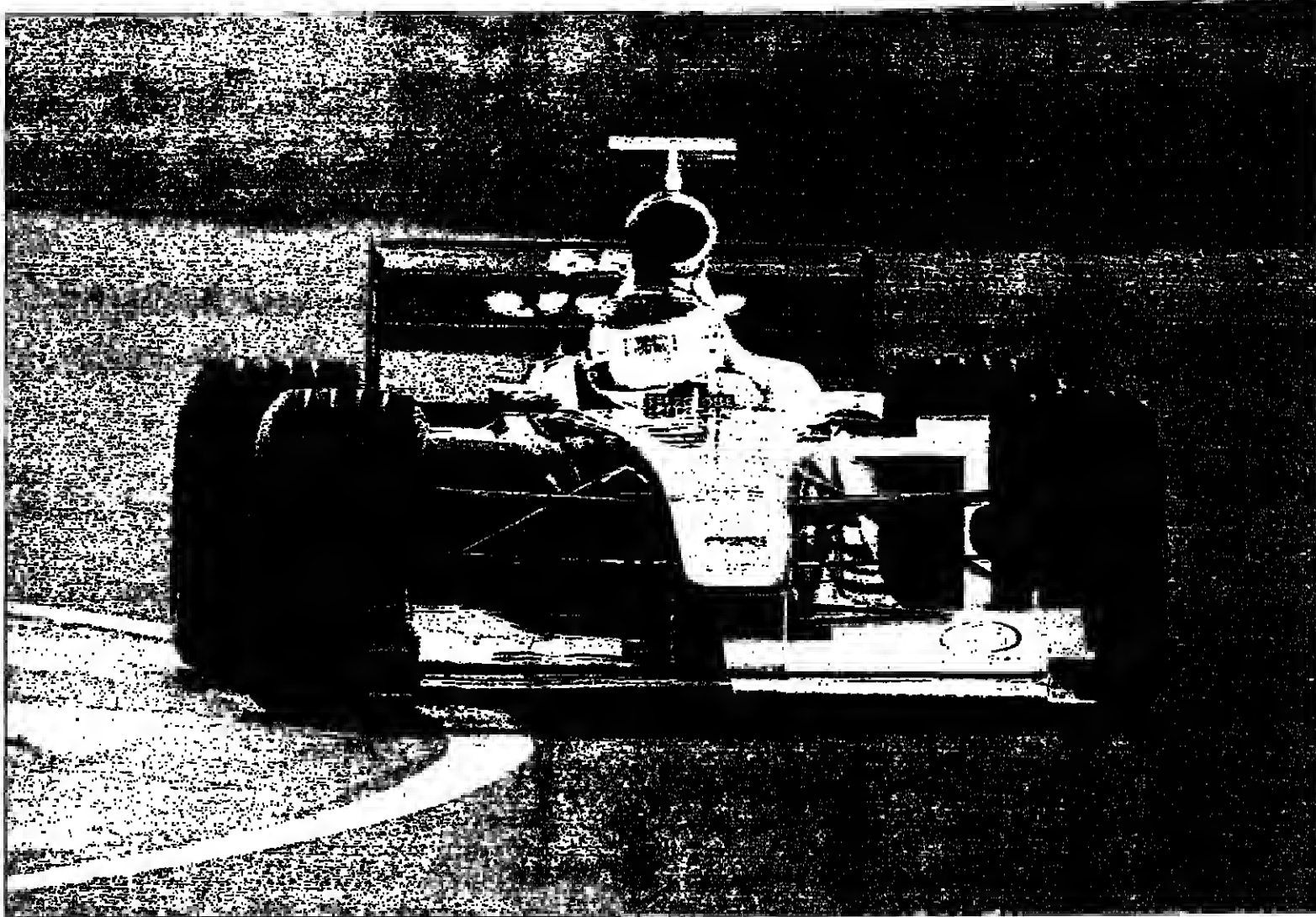
reliant on commercial sponsorship and we always do everything we can to help them, but there is a new focus to Jordan now. We used to have to search for sponsors, now they want to be associated with winners. We are winners and that has to be our concern for the future."

Last season almost broke Jordan. The eternal optimist, who had wheeled and dealt his way to victory in Formula Three and Formula 3000, believed that he was destined never to win in Formula One, despite throwing more than £300 million into the team.

By mid-season and without a point, Hill was starting to make noises that he was unhappy enough to quit Formula One, forcing Jordan to take drastic action. He parted company with his long-time friend and chief designer, Gary Anderson. It hurt and shook the team, which had worked with Anderson from the earliest days, but it also put steel into Jordan, the Irishman believes.

"People don't leave Jordan," he said. "Many of the team have been together from the start and Gary was one of those. But the decision had to be made to bring in Mike Gascoyne and reorganise the way the team worked. We had come through Formula Three and Formula 3000, winning races and championships, but sometimes I thought Formula One was killing me, that I was never going to win."

The introduction of Gascoyne produced an almost immediate change of fortunes. Ralf Schumacher registered the team's first point at Silverstone and then came that epic victory for Hill at the Belgian Grand Prix. That, though, was another day when the normally affable Jordan was forced to reinvent



British American Racing (BAR) are heading for a confrontation with the Australian Government when the team lands in Melbourne next week for its first Formula One race. Authorities in Canberra are thought to be considering a protest to the FIA, the sport's governing body, after photographs were released of the team's new dual livery paintwork, pictured above, with branding for two types of

cigarette. Australia has some of the toughest anti-tobacco laws in the world and ministers are said to be unhappy with what they consider a flagrant attempt to draw attention to two brands by BAR.

The compromise split livery was devised after an inquiry ruled that BAR could not run their cars in two different paint schemes, for Lucky Strike and 555 cigarettes, both brands owned by the team's paymas-

ters, British American Tobacco. The strategy backfired when an independent inquiry ordered BAR to scrap the plan after opposition from the FIA. The FIA has also called Craig Pollock, managing director of BAR, before its world council just five days after the Australian Grand Prix to answer what amounts to a disrepute charge. That could result in a hefty fine or even a one-race ban.

himself as Formula One's new man of steel. Hill was leading with Schumacher, his teammate, closing and five seconds a lap quicker, when Hill forced the hand of his boss: he gave warning that both he and Schumacher could end up in the gravel if they were forced to race to the end of the sodden track at Spa-Francorchamps. Jordan did not hesitate and ordered Schumacher to stay behind Hill.

Footage of the incident, to be shown in an ITV documentary next week, is among the most revealing to have come from inside Formula One. After Hill's entreaty for common sense, Schumacher repeatedly refused to acknowledge the order over the pit-to-car radio, underlining his fury at the decision.

Jordan had no doubts that he made the correct judgment. He said: "What would I have told the sponsors and the team if, instead of getting a one-two finish, we had two cars in the gravel trap? When he is sitting



Hill concerned

with his grandchildren on his lap, Damon will probably think back that probably the greatest win of his career was with Jordan. Everybody expected Damon to win at Williams, but bringing

Jordan, a middle-of-the-pack team, to a one-two finish is a credit to him."

The Jordan team of 1999 is no longer the plucky, middle-ranking team of last year, but a championship contender, a

## Hill calls for action

Damon Hill has called for an investigation into a spate of accidents during Formula One testing in which rear wings have blown off, causing accidents (Kevin Eason writes). In the latest, Johnny Herbert hit crash barriers at the Barcelona track at 190mph, wrecking his Stewart-Ford. The Briton walked away unhurt and later told mechanics that he was unable to steer once the rear wing became disconnected at the fastest part of the circuit. Similar accidents have involved British American, Ferrari, Benetton, Prost and Sauber this winter, prompting Hill to urge the governing body to investigate. "The FIA ought to be concerned about it," Hill said. "Front and rear wing failures are two of the worst things that can happen because they only occur at high speed."

fact that weighs heavily on Jordan before the opening grand prix of the season in Australia next week.

His desperation for credibility in a sport that he has done much to enrich has only been increased. "Jordan was fourth in the championship last year and I am desperate to be in the top three, this year," he said. "We have to move on and I have to believe now that a championship is possible. As a team, we are stronger for what happened last year and more focused in every area of the business and in every activity. Now we know we can win, we want more."

*\*Driving Ambition: A season with Eddie Jordan is on ITV on Tuesday, March 2, at 10.40pm.*

## RALLYING

### Finn is fined for part in crash

FROM JEREMY HART IN NAIROBI

TOMMI MAKINEN, three times the world champion and leader in the title race this year, has been fined \$10,000 (about £6,250) after a head-on crash that left £500,000 worth of rally cars written off.

Makinen collided with the Subaru of Robbie Head, the Scottish driver, during the reconnaissance for the Safari Rally, which started yesterday from Nairobi. Subaru were also fined, but not Head. "I have no comment to make except that the fine will be paid," Makinen said.

The Finn reportedly refused to wait for Head to return up the bush track that they were using before starting his practice. The two cars collided at a closing speed estimated at 100mph. Head was concussed and suffered double vision for 24 hours.

Makinen, who has won five of the past six rallies, said: "The results make the last few months look easy, but it has been very hard work. Kenya will be the hardest to win yet."

Colin McRae was also in trouble before the start. The Scottish driver damaged his right thumb when his Ford Focus clipped a tree stump during testing in East Africa. The spinning steering wheel caught his thumb, breaking an old fracture. "The thumb is painful but I will be able to drive," McRae said. "It has been well strapped up."

Fastest on the 1.5-mile super-special stage on the outskirts of Nairobi yesterday was Juhani Kankkunen, of Finland, who finished the spectator stage a second faster than Richard Burns, his Subaru teammate. Carlos Sainz, in a Toyota, was third and McRae fourth. Makinen set only the twelfth-fastest time, but lost only four seconds to Kankkunen.

## HOCKEY: CANTERBURY GAINING REPUTATION AS NURSERY FOR GOALKEEPERS

### Triggs leads the way Williams injury adds to Slough's headache

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

By CATHY HARRIS

SELECTORS of England squads at various levels are happy to look no farther than Canterbury when a goalkeeper is required. At the head of the list is Simon Triggs, recently drafted into the senior side for the tour of Argentina, and three more from the Kent club are likely to be seen in junior international competition at the end of next month.

Ian Johnson, from Simon Langton Grammar School, and Dan Grayson, of Kent College, are in the under-16 squad while Kier Starley, from Ashford, is the choice at under-18 level.

Triggs can expect to be kept busy on Sunday, when Canterbury visit Reading for a quarter-final match in the EHA Cup. Reading have pulled Andy Holden out of retirement to fill in at full back for Jon Wyatt, who has not recovered from a hand injury.

Bobby Crutchley, the leading scorer this season, has a groin strain that may keep him out of the Cannock team for the home cup match against Lewes on Sunday. "There is no point in risking Crutchley at this stage," Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said. "We do not know much about Lewes other than the fact that they are third in the first division."

Teddington's visit to Old Loughtonians revives memories of the 1994 final at Birmingham University, where Teddington won 1-0. Having beaten Old Loughtonians 5-4 in a league match last month, Teddington are preparing for another stern battle.

Southgate, who entertain their traditional rivals, Hounslow, in the remaining quarter-final, will find the visiting defence harder to crack after the recent return of Jon Potter.

SLOUGH may be forced to field a squad of only eight players against Glasgow Western in their opening match of the European indoor club championship in Glasgow today after Lauren Williams, the Wales international, became their latest casualty. Williams, daughter of the former Wales and British Isles rugby union full back, JPR, broke her thumb in a freak accident at home on Wednesday and joined Sam Wright, who is not fully fit after a long illness, and Fiona Greenham, who has flu, on the sidelines.

There are hopes, however, that Greenham, a member of the England squad that won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, may recover in time to play some part in the tournament.

Andy Halliday, the Slough coach, continued to put on a

brave face but the latest withdrawal, after the loss of the seasoned campaigner, Lesley Hobley, with a shattered thumb a fortnight ago have done nothing to enhance the prospects of the English champions. "I think I will be wrapping everyone else in cotton wool," Halliday said.

Slough have a tendency to start slowly and this will be tested by Glasgow Western, who retained their national title recently but have shown inconsistent form. Niall Sturrock, their coach, feels the club is in a period of transition.

Halliday said that his squad would need to avoid being unmeshed by their opponents in a physical battle. "Our defending has improved enormously and the key to success will be keeping it tight and scoring from set-pieces," he said.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **GOLF:** Karrie Webb, of Australia, scored a career-best 63, nine under par, to take the first-round lead in the Australian Women's Masters in Melbourne. She leads by two strokes from Anna-Jane Hathorne, of Canada, who had a hole in one at the 153-yard 16th. Webb thought that, at one stage, she might be able to achieve the magical 59. "I was hitting everything so close I felt I could birdie every hole," she said. "But then I thought, 'let's just get as low as we can.'"

■ **ROWING:** Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell will race in the coxed four in the FISA Team Cup in Seville this weekend, but with Ed Coadie substituting for Tim Foster, who has had a back operation. Great Britain have 12 crews in the event, including Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, the world coxed pairs silver medal-winner, a week after Bishop's win in the world indoor championships in the United States.

■ **TENNIS:** Anna Kournikova, of Russia, the No 2 seed, needed just 51 minutes to dispose of Kristina Brandi, of the United States, 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the IGA Superthrill Tennis Classic in Oklahoma City. Kournikova now faces Chandra Rubin, of the United States, seeded fifth, who beat Nicole Pietrangeli, of Australia, 6-3, 6-2 in the quarter-finals.

■ **CRICKET:** The 120 riders competing in the North Road CC classic time-trial, which opens the new season tomorrow, will face a course that has been lengthened by three miles to 28 miles because of road works. With three previous winners among the line-up near Brookman's Park, Hertfordshire, Jim Henderson, the Britain hill-climb champion, faces a tough debut in the event. ■ **CRICKET:** Scotland have appointed Graham Dilley, 39, the former England fast bowler, as their bowling coach for the World Cup. He will assist Jim Love, Scotland's director of cricket.

	Depth (m)	U	Piste	Conditions	Resort	Off/b	Weather (Temp) C	Last snow
Andorra	100	110	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	8	23/2
Austria	100	240	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	0	24/2
Kitzbühel	110	310	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	24/2
Obertauern	90	230	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	0	24/2
Sölden	146	166	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	24/2
France	175	310	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	3	24/2
Alpe d'Huez	120	320	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	3	24/2
Argentiere	225	345	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	2	24/2
Flaine	120	240	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	2	24/2
La Cussaz	225	370	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-7	24/2
La Plagne	230	375	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-5	24/2
Les Arcs	180	300	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	0	24/2
Megève	115	280	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	0	24/2
Meribel	202	310	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-7	24/2
Tignes	210	280	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-5	24/2
Val Thorens	146	320	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	24/2
Val d'Isère	150	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-4	23/2
Switzerland	50	65	Fair	Open	Varied	Fine	-12	23/2
Crans Montana	150	330	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	0	24/2
Davos	225	345	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-1	24/2
Grindelwald	100	330	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	3	23/2
Kristina	225	345	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-1	24/2
Murren	200	330	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-2	24/2
Saas Fee	120	400	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	0	24/2
St Moritz	90	150	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	0	24/2
Verbier	140	240	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-8	24/2
Wengen	213	240	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	24/2
Zermatt	110	280	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	24/2
United States	128	158	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	5	22/2
Aspen Valley	225	233	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	3	23/2

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L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

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# Cummins comes of age with Leeds

**Christopher Irvine talks to a rugby league player with a big future**

Francis Cummins is 22, yet he is into his seventh season with Leeds. He is easily the longest-serving player at Headingley and the only one left, after many upheavals, with any working knowledge of Ellery Hanley, who revisits his old stamping ground with his St Helens side in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tomorrow.

The shy, gangly youth from Dewsbury, whom Hanley took under his wing at 16 and who makes his 150th appearance for Leeds in the eagerly-awaited fifth round tie, announced his arrival with two tries away to Hull Kingston Rovers in September 1993. Hanley scored a hat-trick that day.

"I was in awe of these guys — Ellery, Garry Schofield, Alan Tait. I got to share the same corner of the changing-room with Ellery, whose sheer professionalism just taught me so much," Cummins said.

There is as much chance of the phlegmatic Hanley being overwhelmed by nostalgia tomorrow as of Cummins laying down the law in the dressing-room ("I've never been pushy that way"), which leads Cummins to conclude that Hanley will apply the same impeccable logic and stringent detail that assisted his own early learning process. "Any fond memories will be for afterwards," he added.

It was as the youngest player in a Challenge Cup final, at 17 years and 200 days, that Cummins was in danger of being best-known until coming of age with a strike-rate of 26 tries in the JJB Super League and selection by Great Britain on the wing against New Zealand last season. That, and a length-of-the-field try that would have graced any cup triumph, except that Martin Offiah had already blazed a trail of glory for Wigan with two of the best tries seen at Wembley.

For Cummins, defeat in the 1994 final was not as hard to swallow for an awestruck apprentice on £35 a week as it was for the senior players, whose boots he still had to clean. When the same occurred at Wembley the next year, it maintained an unhappy sequence of finishing runners-up to Wigan, including the Super League Grand Final last year. With Wigan removed from the cup equation by the Rhinos 12 days ago, the tempta-

tion to look ahead to Wembley would have been hard to resist in the past. "This Leeds team would beat any other I've been in, including the Ellery era. There were great flair individuals then, but you've only to see the aggression in defence to notice the difference now," he said.

Doug Laughton had his crises during four years as coach of Leeds, in which he made Cummins an apprentice on the basis of ten minutes play on a park pitch, but his youth policy at a club that had been notorious for paying lots of money for ordinary performers in a search for instant success is now reaping the rewards of long-term investment.

While Cummins feels indebted to Laughton — "some players have called him names, but he was a brilliant man-manager," he said — there is no doubting his progress under Graham Murray, the Rhinos' Australian coach.

After several years as a mainstay in the side, he never quite showed, in Murray's first season, the explosiveness and competitive hunger that had marked him out as a special player.

"I was disappointed at what I saw during the cup match we lost to Castleford last season, but he's come on and deserved his Great Britain selection," Murray said.



Cummins came under the wing of Ellery Hanley, the former Leeds star, at 16 and now, at 22, he is the longest-serving player at the club

"He has the pace and skill, while his defence has improved 50 per cent. He has had a great off-season and is looking stronger and more committed than ever."

The oft-beanpole has fleshed out to 14st 7lb. Cummins regards him-

self as fortunate. To have had Craig Iwer, the former All Black, alongside him when he began at Leeds, and now another fine centre in Brad Godden, an Australian whose dazzling footwork complements his clever running on the left side of the

field, has brought the best out in him. "I don't think Brad or Craig could do it for an average wing, because Frannie is much more than that. He's the potential to finish off any sort of move," Murray said.

There is a tendency, too, to forget that although an established part of the Headingley furniture, Cummins still has a long way to travel up the learning curve. As someone who once stood on the Leeds terraces, no one appreciates the expectations there better.

## BADMINTON: BRITONS ENJOY DAY OF SUCCESS IN WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS

### Morgan moves into overdrive

By RICHARD EATON

KELLY MORGAN, the first British woman singles player for eight years to qualify for the World Grand Prix finals, secured one of the best wins of her career when she defeated Yasuko Mizui, the world No 9, in Brunei yesterday.

The 23-year-old from Cardiff, who is also the first Welsh player to reach the grand prix finals, produced a stirring comeback to win 4-11, 11-7, 11-5 against a Japanese opponent who has been one of the circuit's most notable climbers. Morgan could herself climb from her position of world No 13 back into a top ten that she has only once previously, and briefly, occupied.

Morgan was shaky at the start and made a few too many mistakes in an attempt to force the pace, but she was more patient in the second

game and her play gradually became more solid. In the third, she had more freedom to attack and the longer it went on the more she dictated the course of the rallies. It was



Morgan: on the rise

a fine performance by Morgan, although her chances of reaching the knockout stages have been undermined by an earlier defeat by the world silver medal-winner, Gong Zhichao, of China.

However, Simon Archer, of England, could find himself in the final rounds of two doubles events after his two successes.

He and Chris Hunt, the European men's doubles champions, who are playing in their last tournament before ending a six-year partnership, won a thrilling contest against Denny Kantono and Adi Antonius, from Indonesia, the former All-England finalists, 3-15, 17-15, 15-7.

"It has been difficult for them knowing that there is no

future in what they are doing after this week," Andy Wood, the England coach, said. "But halfway through the second game they came to life and then played really well. They earlier believe they can qualify from their group."

Archer and Hunt will do that today if they beat another Indonesian partnership, Tony Gunawan and Haryanto Halim.

Archer's second option is in the mixed doubles, in which he and Joanne Goode gave themselves a chance of qualifying from their group after a highly encouraging 15-8, 7-15, 15-5 win over two more Indonesians, Trikus Heryanto and Minarti Timur, the former World Grand Prix title-holders.

Results, page 57



By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 45 - More bids with extra values

Last week I started to look at rebids with strong hands and I gave some examples of strong balanced hands and strong single-suited hands.

What would you bid on the following hands after you opened One Heart and partner rebid One Spade:

(A) ♠ AK65 (B) ♠ 6 (C) ♠ KJ5  
♥ A10652 ♥ AKJ106 ♥ AQ1054  
♦ KJ3 ♦ AK1065 ♦ AQJ5  
♣ 6 ♣ A4 ♣ 5

With Hand (A) you have a fine hand in support of spades. You have 15 HCP and a singleton which may be worth something extra (more on hand evaluation in a later article). Show partner this with a jump to Three Spades. Hand (B) is tremendously strong with 19 HCP and two five-card suits. Surely you must have a good chance of game even if partner has very little. Rather than make a simple Two Diamond rebid which would not be forcing, jump to Three Diamonds. A jump in a new suit is played as forcing to game so partner won't pass and you can investigate your best contract. Hand (C) is tricky. Although you have significant extra values you cannot bid Three Diamonds because you are not strong enough to force to game facing a minimum partner. Bid a simple Two Diamonds. If partner bids again you will show your extra strength and spade support.

(D) ♠ AK65 (E) ♠ AK65 (F) ♠ QJ3  
♥ A10652 ♥ AK10654 ♥ AKQ7654  
♦ AK3 ♦ 54 ♦ A5  
♣ 6 ♣ 2 ♣ 5

Hand (D) is nearly an ace stronger than Hand (A) above. Don't give partner the opportunity to pass Three Spades, bid Four Spades yourself. Hands (E) and (F) are examples of a very important principle of bidding unbalanced hands: distribution is more important than high-card points. With Hand (E), although you have only 14 HCP, partner needs as little as Qxxx in spades for Four Spades to be a good contract, so bid it directly. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game. Hand (F) is also very powerful and has been improved by partner's One Spade bid. Four Hearts will be a reasonable contract if he has as little as the king of spades and only a singleton heart. Again, do not give him the chance to stop short of game - bid it yourself.

You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 2p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totterdean Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

#### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

#### NASEL

- a. A nose-guard
- b. A bat
- c. An engine-casing

#### POLYPRAGMATIC

- a. Producing polyps
- b. Officious
- c. Having more than ten sides

#### NIGON

- a. A salt water crocodile
- b. Maize bread
- c. A niggard

#### PARASANG

- a. A quiver for arrows
- b. A dance
- c. About 3 miles

Answers on page 58



By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

#### Oxford v Cambridge

This year's annual contest between Oxford University and Cambridge University will be held at the RAC in Pall Mall on Saturday, March 6. The respective team line-ups are as follows:

**Cambridge**  
Brian Kelly (Trinity), Harriet Hunt (St John's), Mark Ferguson (Queen's), Karl Mah (Pembroke), James Vigus (St Dunstan's), David Moszkowski (Queen's), Aaron Cohen (Queen's), Nathan Alfred (King's).

**Oxford**  
Dharshan Kumaran (Green), Jonathan Rowson (Keeble), Aleksander Trifunovich (St Anne's), Oliver Rosten (Somerville), Benjamin Savage (Lady Margaret), Joel Quaknine (St Cross), Kieran Smallbone (New), Emily Howard (Lincoln).

Oxford, with one grandmaster and one grandmaster-candidate leading their team, start as favourites. Here is the board one clash from last year.

**White:** Mark Ferguson  
**Black:** Dharshan Kumaran  
Varsity Match, London 1998

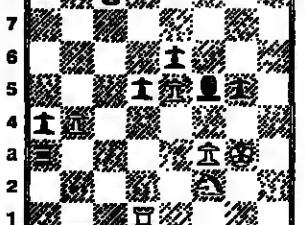
#### Caro-Kann Defence

1. e4 c6
2. d4 d5
3. e5 c5
4. dxc6 bxc6
5. Be3 Nf6
6. c3 Ne6
7. Bb5 Bb7
8. Bxc6 Bxc6
9. Nf3 Nf5
10. Bb4 a5
11. O-O a4
12. Nbd2 g5
13. g4 Nxd4

14. cxd4 h5
15. h3 h4
16. f4 g4
17. f5 Qe7
18. f6 Qe7
19. Rf1 f5
20. Qe2 h4
21. Nh2 Rh4
22. Ng4 Bb5
23. Qd1 Rb8
24. c5 Bb8
25. Ne1 Qf7
26. Nf2 Qf4
27. a3 Rf8
28. Qd1 Bb3
29. Qf2 Bf5
30. Qg3 Qe4
31. Rad1 Qd2
32. Qf2 Qd2
33. Rf2 Rf4
34. Ng4 Rf1
35. Rf1 Rf3
36. Rf1 b6
37. cxb6 Bxb6
38. Kg3 Bb4
39. Rf1 Bb6
40. Rf1 Bb4
41. Rf1 Bb4
42. Ne2 Rf3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



**Linarex**  
After three rounds of the Linarex elite tournament scores are: Kasparov and Adams 2/3, Anand, Topalov, Svidler and Kramnik 1/3; Ivanchuk and Leko 1.

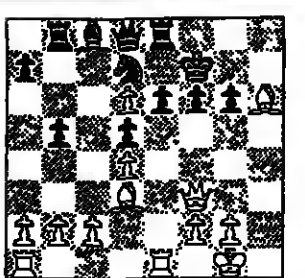
#### Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keene@chess.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

#### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Godena-Cacco, Italy 1998. Black is trying to defend himself with a solid wall of pawns in front of his king. How did White dismantle this protection with a fine sequence?



Solution on page 58

## New interest rates for Halifax customers.

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<b>60 DAY GOLD</b>								
£100,000+	5.60	5.60	5.05	5.05	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.20	5.20	4.85	4.85	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.85	4.85	4.30	4.30	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.60	4.60	4.10	4.10	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.90	3.90	3.40	3.40	-	-	-	-
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>								
£100,000+	5.60	5.60	5.05	4.94	-	-	-	-
£50,000+	5.20	5.08	4.85	4.55	-	-	-	-
£25,000+	4.85	4.75	4.30	4.22	-	-	-	-
£10,000+	4.60	4.51	4.09	4.02	-	-	-	-
£5,000+	3.90	3.83	3.40	3.35	-	-	-	-
<b>SOLID GOLD</b>								
£50,000+	3.85	3.85	3.20	3.20	3.80	3.80	3.15	3.15
£25,000+	3.75	3.75	3.20	3.20	3.70	3.70	3.15	3.15
£10,000+	3.55	3.55	3.00	3.00	3.65	3.65	3.10	3.10
£5,000+	3.35	3.35	2.80	2.80	3.40	3.40	2.85	2.85
£250+	3.05	3.05	2.45	2.45	3.05	3.05	2.45	2.45
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>								
£50,000+	3.85	3.78	3.20	3.15	3.80	3.74	3.15	3.11
£25,000+	3.75	3.69	3.20	3.15	3.70	3.64	3.15	3.11
£10,000+	3.55	3.49	3.00	2.96	3.65	3.59	3.10	3.06
£5,000+	3.35	3.30	2.80	2.76	3.40	3.35	2.85	2.81
£250+	3.05	3.01	2.45	2.42	3.05	3.01	2.45	2.42
<b>LIQUID GOLD</b>								
£25,000+	2.75	2.75	2.05	2.05	2.65	2.65	2.00	2.00
£10,000+	2.65	2.65	2.05	2.05	2.60	2.60	2.00	2.00
£5,000+	2.55	2.55	1.95	1.95	2.50	2.50	1.90	1.90
£2,500+	2.45	2.45	1.85	1.85	2.35	2.35	1.75	1.75
£500+	2.35	2.35	1.85	1.85	2.25	2.25	1.75	1.75
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
<b>ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>								
£50,000+	4.89	4.80	4.27	4.20	4.27	4.20	3.65	3.60
£25,000+	4.63	4.55	4.01	3.95	3.85	3.80	3.24	3.20
£10,000+	4.27	4.20	3.65	3.60	3.60	3.55	2.98	2.95
£5,000+	3.95	3.90	3.29	3.25	3.25	3.20	2.68	2.65
£1+	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Matured TESSA</b>								
£1+	6.09	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>YOUNG SAVERS £1+</b>								
£1+	4.50	4.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT</b>								
£10,000+	3.40	3.40	2.80	2.80	3.40	3.40	2.80	2.80
£2,000+	2.90	2.90	2.30	2.30	2.90	2.90	2.30	2.30
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>								
£10,000+	3.40	3.35	2.80	2.76	3.40	3.35	2.80	2.76
£2,000+	2.90	2.86	2.30	2.28	2.90	2.86	2.30	2.28
<b>TREASURERS ACCOUNT</b>								
£2,500+	-	-	-	-	3.70	3.70	3.20	3.20
£500+	-	-	-	-	3.15	3.15	2.65	2.65
£1+	-	-	-	-	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85

#### Bonus Accounts

Rates shown do not include bonus, except where stated.

ACCOUNT	Non-resident rates <sup>1</sup>					Non-personal rates <sup>2</sup>					
	CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/03/99			CURRENT		RATES FROM 01/03/99			
	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER Incl. Conditional Bonus p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER %	GROSS p.a. %	AER Incl. Conditional Bonus p.a. %	NET p.a. %
HALIFAX TESSA 2 Variable Rate	5.80	5.80	5.30	5.30	5.90	-	-	-	-	-	-
BONUS GOLD											
£100,000+	4.85	4.85	4.35	4.35	5.35	4.60	4.60	4.10	4.10	5.10	3.25
£50,000+	4.50	4.50	4.00	4.00	5.00	4.35	4.35	3.85	3.85	4.85	3.08
£25,000+	4.20	4.20	3.70	3.70	4.70	4.05	4.05	3.55	3.55	4.55	2.84
£10,000+	4.15	4.15	3.60	3.60	4.60	4.00	4.00	3.45	3.45	4.45	2.76
Monthly Income Option <sup>3</sup>											
£100,000+	4.85	4.75	4.35	4.27	-	4.60	4.51	4.09	4.02	-	3.22
£50,000+	4.50	4.41	4.00	3.93	-	4.35	4.27	3.85	3.78	-	3.02
£25,000+	4.20	4.12	3.70	3.64	-	4.05	3.98	3.55	3.49	-	2.79
£10,000+	4.15	4.07	3.60	3.54	-	4.00	3.93	3.45	3.40	-	2.72
MONTHLY Saver											
£1+	3.27	3.25	2.76	2.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CLOSED ISSUES											
(Not available to new customers)											
TESSA Gold	6.30	6.30	5.70	5.70	5.82	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax TESSA	5.75	5.25	5.25	5.25	6.07	-	-	-	-	-	-





















## MOTOR RACING 54

How Eddie Jordan plans to close the credibility gap

# SPORT

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## RUGBY LEAGUE 55

Cummins repays Leeds' faith in youth policy



# Wembley delay threatens 2006 hopes



McGivan: needs decision

WEMBLEY'S shareholders were yesterday urged not to delay selling the national stadium as it could ruin England's hopes of staging the 2006 football World Cup. The shareholders are being lobbied to reject or hold up the sale, as time runs out in the campaign to bring the tournament back to England for the first time since 1966.

The Football Association has to meet a deadline of July this year to provide written details of the bid to Fifa, the world governing body of football, and that must include complete details of the new national stadium, which would stage many of the games in 2006 including the final.

Alec McGivan, the director of the 2006 World Cup campaign, said yesterday: "We do need a decision

for the future. It is very important for the bid. We do not want any further delay."

The shareholders of Wembley plc will consider the offer from the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC), a joint venture between the English Sports Council and the Football Association, at its extraordinary general meeting on March 11. The plans include knocking down the existing structure after the FA Cup Final this summer and building a new 80,000-seat stadium for use by other sports, including rugby league and athletics, as well as football.

However, three independent directors, Jarvis Astaire, Peter Mead and Roger Brooke, are circulating shareholders, telling them that the recommendation of Clive Hultman,

the chairman of Wembley plc, to sell the stadium, is against their interests.

The trio have said that they do not believe that the present terms "reflect the contribution that Wembley shareholders are being asked to make towards the development of the national stadium, particularly by giving up their rights under the existing contract with the FA". This expires in July 2002.

They point out that Wembley plc would lose the right to use the stadium for entertainment events and state: "The FA has been pressing for Wembley to complete the contract and it seems obvious to us that they regard the acquisition of the stadium on current terms as a positive

BY JOHN GOODBODY

coup and a bargain for them. A bargain for the FA is not a good deal for you, particularly in view of what you are giving up."

Two other companies, ENIC and SFX, have approached the plc to try to buy the shares and the three independent directors have recommended to shareholders to delay, pointing out that "it will not close off the possibility of a future sale on preferable terms."

The shareholders are also aware of the threats that if the ENSDC's offer of £103 million of lottery money for the famous site is either turned down or delayed, then the Football Association would pull out of playing internationals and domestic events such as the FA Cup Final at

Wembley when the present contract expires.

However, if the deal does not go ahead in the next few months, it could also mean the end of England's attempt to stage the World Cup, not only in 2006 but also for the foreseeable future. In addition, any hopes of holding the 2003 world athletics championships would end.

The alternative site for a national stadium would be Eastlands, Manchester, but this is clearly a second-best option, particularly since the city already houses the 25,000-seat Old Trafford, the biggest club stadium in England.

The delay in settling the future of Wembley has certainly been unhelpful to England's campaign. The name of Wembley possesses such a resonance for many countries that it

has a crucial role in England's bid to get the tournament in the battle against the other leading contenders, Germany and South Africa.

The FA has already visited most of the countries that provide the 25 members of the Fifa executive committee. Sir Bobby Charlton, Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, and McGivan will shortly be visiting Tunisia and then Charlton and McGivan will be travelling to New Zealand.

After the written details are submitted in July, the facilities in England will be inspected in the autumn, with the Fifa executive committee due to make its decision in March, 2000.

European changes, page 57  
Graham weaves magic, page 57

# Kafelnikov in reach of highest peak

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE graphic famously depicting Graham Taylor as a turnip may be superimposed on Yevgeny Kafelnikov if he fails to beat Thomas Johansson in the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea Park. Defeat by the Swede would prevent Kafelnikov from displacing Pete Sampras as the world No 1, in the process denying British fans their first glimpse of such a coronation.

Kafelnikov's quest for supremacy became possible yesterday when Johansson, seeded No 8, beat Davide Sanguinetti, of Italy, 6-0, 6-7, 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals. Suitably fortified, Kafelnikov immediately dismissed Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, 6-3, 6-2 to herald a fanfare heard just 14 times since the rankings system was introduced 26 years ago.

The bonus points available for beating Johansson will now suffice for the Russian. That it should all be happening in London is heady stuff. It

will surely whet the appetite of Tim Henman, to whom Kafelnikov yesterday dispensed some blunt advice. After Henman was surprisingly beaten on Wednesday night by Jan Krosak, a qualifier from Slovakia, Kafelnikov said that Henman would do well to make available more practice time by scaling down his personal endorsements.

Results.....56

The Russian's comments certainly caused a stir. Henman should take a leaf out of his book, he said, by refusing lucrative deals that make counter-demands on a player's time. The problem here is that Kafelnikov — who, at 25, is the same age as Henman — is several rungs higher up the ladder.

The Australian Open champion, Kafelnikov won his first grand-slam title three years

ago. He has plundered 19 titles and \$13 million (about £8 million) in prize-money. He has been among the game's highest earners for four years.

One thing that Henman does not lack is hunger. It may not burn a hole in his stomach, as it does, initially, in most players from eastern Europe. "When you make your first million," Kafelnikov said, "you want to hit two, then five, then ten." And then you get bored, as Kafelnikov did last year. Henman is not remotely in that league.

The fact that he may now earn as much as £2 million a year in private endorsements is a recent phenomenon. He has won but four titles and has never reached the final of a Super 9 event, never mind a grand slam. His failure to attain these heights explains his profound sense of disappointment when he is beaten. "Perhaps Tim could cut his appearance schedule to focus on aspects that will improve his game," Kafelnikov said. "He should spend more time on the practice court. You don't realise it, but you are giving away so much energy at sponsors' functions."

Although Henman's defeat by Krosak, ranked No 79 in the world, was disappointing, he has advanced his world ranking every year since he first registered on the computer six years ago. He is at present No 7, a career high. Kafelnikov was on safer territory when he cited Henman's role as a representative on the ATP Tour players' council as a hindrance to his progress. Most who served before the Briton found that their game suffered for it.

Kafelnikov agreed that Henman needs further exposure to the big-match atmosphere. "To improve your game generally you have to spend a lot of time playing on different surfaces," he said. Yet Henman played more tournaments last year than all but one man — Kafelnikov himself. And among other fellow top ten residents, only one player has enjoyed a better start to the year than Henman — Kafelnikov again. It is a measure of the aspirations held for Henman



Kafelnikov, who later offered Henman some advice, serves during the victory over Black that left him one win away from assuming Sampras's mantle

# Racial disputes blight South African cricket

IN A country where political correctness and sensitivities to issues of race have become extreme, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) has become a master of reacting, and often over-reacting, to criticism over the composition of its national sides and accusations of racism within the game.

Even during the recent West Indies tour here, however, when the UCBSA was roundly condemned for fielding an all-white side in the first Test match, events did not get as convoluted as they did yesterday, to the point where the board said that it was considering banning the use of cricketing terms such as "chinaman" that could cause offence.

In a manner that characterises the complexities it has encountered, the UCBSA disciplined Brian McMillan, of Western Province, and Alan Badenhorst, of Eastern Province B, for allegedly racist remarks made last week during provincial matches. At the same time, Bob Woolmer, coach of the South Africa side in New Zealand, reacted angrily to the political pressure imposed on him to include non-white players.

McMillan was severely reprimanded and is to make a public apology after suggesting that Claude Henderson

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

bowled Ashraf Mall in a "coolie" in a match against Natal. The term is well-known in South African circles, referring to a ball that bounces more than once before passing the batsman, but "coolie" has pejorative connotations towards Asians.

Of further embarrassment, however, was McMillan's initial reaction to accusations of racism. "I am not prepared to apologise for what I did because I think it is part of cricketing terminology," he said. "Does that mean changing a 'chinaman'? Some people might take offence at that term. I think it's a lot of crap."



McMillan: apology

Evidently, the UCBSA — which also banned Badenhorst from all cricket for two years for calling a Griqualand West opponent "a half-breed" — disagrees. Brian Basson, the director of umpiring and playing affairs, confirmed that discussions had taken place regarding the outlawing of terms such as "coolie" and "chinaman".

"We need to analyse the terminology to make sure it never happens again," he said. "We have to consider the sensitivities of every person in South Africa."

Woolmer, having been ordered to include Herschelle Gibbs in the remaining three one-day internationals, said: "We pick the teams for cricket reasons and cricket reasons only. I have never been interested in politics and nor shall I ever want to be."

# Anelka to stay at Highbury

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOOTBALL'S grapevine works in mysterious ways. On Tuesday, Roberto Bettega, the Juventus vice-president, was seen watching Arsenal's FA Cup fifth-round rematch against Sheffield United. Yesterday, it was reported in Italy that Juventus were planning a "£20 million bid" for Nicolas Anelka, Arsenal's young France striker.

Last week it was Barcelona who were apparently interested, before an official denial was issued by the Spanish club. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, was at pains yesterday to assert: "Nicolas is not for sale, at any price. The problem is that you can't control the people around the players who want to make quick money. The player has a good game and they think he can move elsewhere."

Bettega is a close friend of David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, and it is believed his visit to North London was more social than professional. Juventus may be struggling in Serie A — they lie in seventh place, 12 points behind Lazio, the leaders — but they are not expected to begin recruiting until the summer, when Marcello Lippi will make way for Carlo Ancelotti, the new coach.

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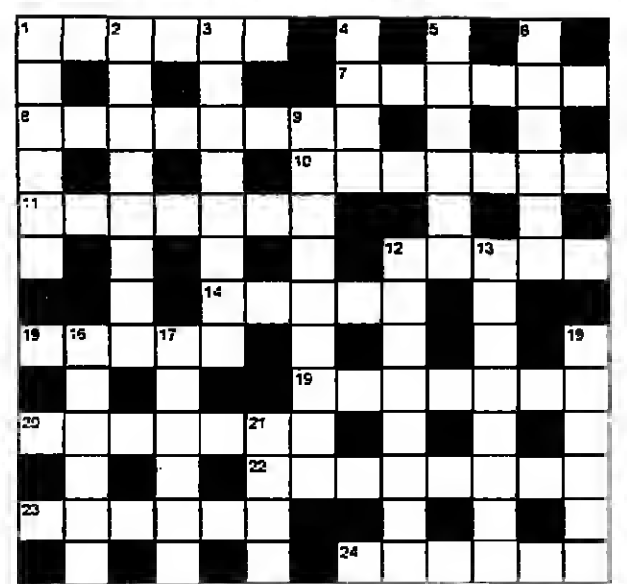
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## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1651

- ACROSS  
1 Responsibility; attack (6)  
7 Small mammal: deceitful (words) (6)  
8 Golden Treasury anthology (8)  
10 Present in, native to, area (7)  
11 Not having (7)  
12 One showing you to seat (5)  
14 Available at demand (2,3)  
15 Hymn of praise (5)  
19 Air passages (lungs) (7)  
20 Everlasting (7)  
22 Free French leader (2,6)  
23 Verse of poem (6)  
24 Time of year (6)
- DOWN  
1 Dressed roof (6)  
2 Issue, assign (8)  
3 Fort defenders (8)  
4 Willful —, war poet (4)  
5 The press; documents (6)  
6 Old and forgotten (6)  
9 Meal-accompanying plant (9)  
12 Current, modern (2-2,4)  
13 Gk. strongman, had labours (8)  
16 Sharp-witted (6)  
17 Out-and-out (knave, fool) (6)  
18 Nunc dimittis speaker; sounds like monkey (6)  
21 Giselle composer; 18C architect brothers (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1650  
ACROSS: 1 Scenic 5 Rick 8 Draw 9 Abortive 10 Syllabus  
11 Arts 12 Vendor 14 Energy 16 Stop 18 Abhorred  
20 Addendum 21 Mace 22 Pyre 23 Yankee  
DOWN: 2 Carlyle 3 Newell 4 Chambermaids 5 Rat race  
6 Cove 7 Double whammy 13 Deplete 15 Glencoe  
17 Today 19 Roman

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